SANDWELL
CHRONICLE

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CAVING IN
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OUTPLAYED
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ANTI-FREEZE CALL TO PROTECT PETS

VETS in Sandwell have made calls for changes to be made to anti-freeze products, to help protect people's pets from harm.

Staff at White Cross Vets, based in Regent Street, Tividale, say they have treated several pets in the last few weeks who have ingested the sweet-tasting liquid and died from kidney failure as a result.

Report by Rob Cox

They are now urging people to sign a petition calling on manufactures to add a bittering agent to make the taste less appealing to pets.

Bonnie Leibowitch, Clinic Director at the practice, said: "We see too many poisoned pets every year who are in distress after swallowing anti-freeze either as a terrible accident or a malicious act of cruelty.

"The deadly ingredient Ethylene Glycol is highly toxic and because of its sweet taste it is especially appealing to pets but just one teaspoon is enough to kill a cat and a tablespoon will kill a dog.

"If an accidental spill occurs and a pet either drinks or walks through the anti-freeze and then licks their paws it can kill them.

"We have also seen cases where pets have been intentionally poisoned with food that has been soaked in antifreeze."However, these cases could be prevented if anti-freeze wasn't sweet tasting."

Figures from the Veterinary Poisons Information Service reveal Ethylene Glycol poisoning is the most common cause of death among pets on its database and 90 percent of cats that swallow antifreeze will die as a result. White Cross Vets says across its Midland practices, there have been 33 cases in the last year.

Fellow vet Naomi Fountain, whose pet cat Mischief died of anti-freeze poisoning in 2009, is petitioning the Government to change existing laws. She said: "Currently our petition has over 20,000 signatures, and if we can stop just one person from going through what I did by raising awareness and encouraging change, we will have succeeded."

To sign the petition visit www.whitecrossvets.co.uk or call 01384 884141.

Berahino will face quiz over M6 arrest

Stopped – Saido Berahino

BAGGIES star Saido Berahino is to be interviewed by police after being arrested on suspicion of drink-driving. The England striker was stopped while allegedly travelling at 'high speed' on the M6 in the early hours.

The 21-year-old was bailed to return to a police station to speak with officers next month following his arrest near Lymm in Cheshire last month.

A spokeswoman for Cheshire Police said: "At around 3.39am on the morning of Wednesday October 22, a patrol stopped a car travelling at high speed southbound on the M6 near J20. A 21-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of drink-driving."

Berahino escaped his war-torn African homeland of Burundi at the age of 10.

Magical day of festivities

WEST Bromwich is pulling out all the stops with a magically themed Christmas Switch-On event in the town centre, from 11am.

TV's Ben and Holly, straight from their Little Kingdom, will be around all at New Square and Queens Square. For our older guests, Chris Rankin who plays Percy Weasley in the Harry Potter films, is attending.

A Hagrid lookalike will also be on board to delight the children with falconry.

At 4pm 'Blind' Dave Heeley does the switch-on, with a laser show afterwards.

Elton: I can't wait

SIR Elton John has announced he will perform at the Banks's Stadium in Walsall next June as part of a European tour. The concert will be held on June 13 and the star said he was looking forward to performing in the borough for the first time. It is hoped to extend the ground's normal 11,300 capacity to around 17,000 for the event. The approach from Sir Elton's team surprised and delighted club bosses who have been working behind the scenes for the last two months on the logistics of staging the concert.

Chippie's batter than anywhere else

Chamberlains owner Simon Shaw, and staff member Dan Lynch at the shop

By Dan Wainwright

THERE'S some first-class frying going on at Chamberlains Quality Fish and Chips, in Oldbury, after it was officially named the takeaway of the year at The Food Awards in Manchester.

The Wolverhampton Road chippie fought off stiff competition from other takeaways in the country including six in the West Midlands.

Since it opened in 2011 the fish bar, which also includes a full restaurant seating area, has been providing top-notch food as well as service. Co-owner Dan Lynch said: "When we had the idea to start, all we knew was that we wanted to provide good food. It was when we found the premises here that we decided a fish and chip takeaway and restaurant would be our best bet."

Chef Dan said the name of the restaurant hadn't even been decided when they made the move into the new premises. "We had a flyer come through the door which mentioned Neville Chamberlain, the Prime Minister, who was born nearby," Dan said.

Important

"We thought it was a great local historical connection that local people could enjoy so we stuck with it."

Dan said: "It's all important, good food, good location and good service. We have only been open since 2011 but we have already won about 12 or 13 other awards which is great."

"Many people couldn't believe we were open on Sundays," Dan said. "It was getting them out of this roast dinner on Sundays mentality and into having fish and chips instead, but people absolutely love it now."

Customer Lynsey Bould said: "Chamberlains has lovely staff and gorgeous food. We have been a few times and have never been let down with quality. I intend to go for my dad's 80th birthday."

£22m set as target for more cutbacks

MORE than £20 million worth of cuts still have to be found at Sandwell Council sparking a fresh round of savings. The cash-strapped authority faces £41m of cuts for 2015 to 2017 after its central Government grants were reduced.

But a new report says it now needs to find another £22m to meet budget requirements. To help decide where the axe will fall, council officials have come up with a programme called Facing the Future. The programme will encourage residents, organisations and businesses to have their say.

Sandwell Council leader Darren Cooper says the priority will be to protect frontline services. "Facing the Future is about an additional £22m on cut to our budget for 2015-17 on top of £41m cuts that we have already been forced to make for the same financial years," he said.

Facing the Future programme chiefs, Steve Handley, and Phil Challoner, compiled a report to outline the council's position for a key meeting which was due to be held yesterday.

Areas for possible savings include health and social care budgets, and regeneration and growth budgets.

Crews find drug plants

A CANNABIS factory was discovered after a fire at a house in Oldbury.

Firefighters attended a property on Vernon Road at around 8.20am on Tuesday after reports of a fire.

They forced entry to the property and discovered the fire under the staircase which is believed to have been caused by an electrical fault.

Firefighters then called police who seized 55 plants for destruction.

Anyone with information is asked to call 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

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Parcel firm delivers festive boost

SIX HUNDRED jobs have been created at a parcel delivery firm's sorting centre to deal with the Christmas rush.

Yodel, which has a main sorting centre on the Willenhall/Darlaston border, has created the seasonal roles, which include warehouse staff and drivers.

Bosses say they have already filled 450 vacancies and are looking for an additional 150 sorting staff for its centre in Owen Road.

The company, which handles more than 145 million parcels per year, is recruiting 5,000 part-time and full-time staff across the UK in preparation for the Christmas peak, when it expects to handle up a million parcels a day.

Bosses say that although these are seasonal positions for the festive period, many of the roles could become permanent.

Executive chairman Dick Stead said: "Many of the vacancies are flexible and perfect for those who want to fit work around families, or who have retired but want to remain active and earn some extra cash. Others are full-time and we expect many people to stay on beyond December."

A special control tower has been established at the Owen Road sorting facility to oversee volume management, operational action and weather contingency over the winter. Operational hours have been extended and deliveries are being increased to seven days a week.

To apply for a vacancy at the Owen Road sorting office, call Blue Arrow on 0800 032 8487.

Postie who kept mail given suspended term

A POSTMAN who stockpiled letters containing wage slips, theatre tickets, hospital appointment cards and a cheque book has been spared an immediate prison sentence.

Craig Congrave collected 56 letters between April 2011 and February 2013, 14 of which had been opened and kept them behind his settee for up to three years, Birmingham Magistrates' Court heard.

Police found the haul in two Royal Mail packages while executing a drugs raid at his house in Tottenham Crescent, Kingstanding, on January 26.

The court heard Congrave, aged 28, who worked from the Great Barr delivery office and had been employed by the Royal Mail for seven and a half years, was suspended from work a day later and never returned.

Mr John Dove, prosecuting on behalf of the Royal Mail, said: "The items included hospital appointment cards, theatre tickets, a cheque book, wage slips and greetings cards.

Delayed

"The addressees would have been inconvenienced to a considerable degree by not receiving their mail."

Congrave had denied intentionally delaying the delivery of postal packets or mailbags, but was found guilty after a trial in October. He had told the court he suspected his ex-partner may have opened 14 of the letters found at his home.

Miss Kerendeep Garcha, defending, said Congrave had not intentionally delayed the posting of the letters.

Congrave, now a fitter earning £250 per week, was given a six month prison sentence suspended for 12 months. He was also ordered to do 100 hours of unpaid work as part of a 12 month supervision order and pay costs of £1,000 plus an £80 victim surcharge.

Organisers planning for 2015 festival

THE team behind the first ever Black Country Festival are inviting applications from people hoping to host events in 2015.

Tens of thousands of people enjoyed hundreds of themed events marking official Black Country Day on July 14. Now organisers are planning for next year in a bid to attract even more visitors.

Committee member Stephen Pitts said: "We were delighted with the reaction of the public, not just at the showcase event in Dudley but at all the other events that went on throughout the four boroughs and particular the number of people who had their own Black Country themed parties.

Strong

"The backing the public has given the festival in its inaugural year has put us in a very strong position to approach various partners and councils across the Black Country to help put on something truly special next year."

Anyone with an act, stall or event they would like to be included should email info@blackcountryfestival.co.uk to contact the organising committee.

New chapter for historian

Local historian Tony Highfield with his latest book about Darlaston

A POPULAR historian has taken another trip down memory lane with the publication of his latest book.

Tony Highfield has now clocked up 20 releases over the years. His latest offering, Stories, Faces and Places of Darlaston, covers interesting tales from people who live in the town. Mr Highfield began writing the book in January.

The 72-year-old said: "It's a real trip down memory lane. I always start writing my books at the start of the year and have them finished in time for Christmas. It's a tradition to publish the book in time for Christmas. I've been doing this for over 20 years now."

First person stories in the book are penned by a shopkeeper and Mr Highfield himself.

Mr Highfield will be signing copies of his book at Darlaston Library on Saturday, from 10am to noon. It costs £3 and is on sale the library and Darlaston Post Office in Victoria Road.

Jobs boost after new machines purchased

JOBS are to be created at a Wednesbury manufacturing firm following a £562,000 investment.

RMP Products in Leabrook Road has bought two new metal cutting machines to enable it to increase its production.

The firm was supported by Lloyds Bank and also received funding from the the Regional Growth Fund.

One new job has so far been created at the business, with further opportunities expected in sales and inspection over the coming months.

A new apprentice is also set to be recruited to the business, which now employs 26 people and has an annual turnover of £5.5million.

Growth

Director Paul Dyche said: "Investing in these new machines is a significant step in our growth strategy, as it complements our current processes, allowing us to shorten lead times and increase production capacity.

"The support of Lloyds Bank has been instrumental in this process, and the business is now focusing on securing new business and expanding our presence in the offshore industry."

Two injured in collision

A MAN was injured when he was struck by a car which then hit the wall of a pub in Cradley Heath.

The pedestrian, a man thought to be in his 40s was taken to Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham for serious leg and pelvic injuries.

The driver, believed to be in his 30s, was treated for a head injury and taken to the same hospital.

The incident happened in Cradley Road just after 9pm on Tuesday, November 18. The car hit the wall of the Wizard and Glass pub on Cradley Road.

Woman is hurt

A WOMAN in her 50s was taken to Walsall Manor Hospital after a three-car crash during rush-hour in Darlaston. It happened in Willenhall Street at around 7.50am last Thursday (November 20). She suffered minor hand injuries. No one else was injured.

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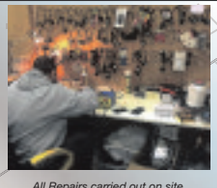

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Boost as dialysis centre set to open

A NEW dialysis centre is opening in Great Bridge and will serve hundreds of patients.

Renal care provider Diaverum has revealed it is opening the centre in George Henry Way.

Company bosses say many staff have transferred to the new centre from others it manages.

It comes after the company sealed a 10-year contract with University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust.

Around 450 patients will be served at the centre and others including in Aston and Kings Norton areas of Birmingham.

Dr Clara Day, Lead Consultant for Haemodialysis at the University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust, said: "We were looking for a provider who could deliver state-of-the-art technology and highest quality of care with a clear patient focus.

"Diaverum has proven to be the right choice."

Diaverum UK managing director Michael Hartnett added: "We are really looking forward to working closely with the trust to continually improve clinical quality and patient experience."

Library holds family event

A FREE family fun day to help raise funds for dementia is taking place on Saturday. The event is at Hamstead Library Great Barr from 11am to 1pm.

Activities will include gift stands, jewellery stalls, children's crafts, tombola, and a visit from Santa. Half of the proceeds raised from the event will go to the Better Understanding of Dementia in Sandwell, (BUDS) charity, while the other 50 per cent will go to The Friends of Hamstead Library.

For more details can contact Tracy Wheatley on 0121 569 2548.

Twitter advice

THE dos and don'ts of sending social network messages come under discussion in Walsall. Twitter Workshop for Small Businesses will be held on December 1 at the Talent Navigator Enterprise Hub, Navigation Street, from 10am. Tickets cost £45. Call 01922 642497.

False observation reports nurse is struck off

A NURSE who put patients at risk by making up false observation reports has been struck off. Tracey Billyard failed to carry out basic checks then falsified records to cover her tracks at Sandwell Hospital.

Billyard was also caught on CCTV putting a patient's casualty card in the clinical waste bin, the Nursing and Midwifery Council heard. She made up observation reports after two patients told a doctor their blood pressure and oxygen levels had not been taken. When confronted by a doctor the nurse replied: 'Whatever',the hearing was told. In one case a doctor examined a patient with a head injury and mentioned his blood pressure and pulse.

The patient said no observations had been taken on May 31, 2012. Billyard insisted she had done them, but 20 minutes later the patient's casualty card went missing. CCTV footage showed Billyard taking it and disposing of it in a clinical waste bin, the tribunal heard. In a handwritten statement she said: "I was distracted because I was under pressure and had not done them, so I made them up."

She then said in a meeting: "I was so ashamed of what I did and wanted to erase it. I did not go straight home, I sat in McDonald's car park for about an hour."

Billyard resigned from her position two days before her disciplinary hearing on May 1 last year. NMC panel chair Polly Clarke said: "Patients and their families must be able to trust nurses with their lives and the lives of their loved ones. To justify that trust, nurses must be honest and open and act with integrity. The panel considered that by documenting that she had performed observations on Patient A, Patient B and Patient D Ms Billyard exacerbated the risk of unwarranted harm to which she subjected them."

She was cleared of one count of falsifying patient observations as there was no case to answer. Her fitness to practice was found impaired by reason of misconduct and she was struck off.

Drunk Polish wrong-way lorry driver is behind bars

A DRUNK Polish lorry driver caught driving the wrong way down the Black Country Route has been jailed and banned from the road for three years.

Tomasz Kruchowski, aged 36, was spotted pulling out of a side road near The Keyway, in Willenhall, then down the 'no entry' lane by police officers on patrol along the A454 section of the route in his 40-ton articulated lorry.

by Deborah Hardiman

Miss Val Hart, prosecuting, told Walsall Magistrates Court on Tuesday that the driver was more than three times the drink drive limit when he was arrested in the early hours of Monday.

Miss Hart told the court: "At about 2.15am officers were travelling eastbound along the Black Country Route travelling from Willenhall to Wolverhampton.

"They saw an HGV articulated lorry emerge the wrong way from a no entry side road and drive onto the route. It was travelling westbound on the eastbound carriageway heading towards oncoming traffic."The vehicle was a large trailer and tractor unit and fully laden. It has a mass allowance of 40 tons."

She added: "Having approached the driver it was clear that he had been drinking alcohol, his eyes were glazed and red, he was unsteady on his feet and smelt strongly of intoxicants. He was arrested for driving whilst unfit. The Black Country Route was closed to other vehicles and the lorry was driven at a slow speed along the carriageway as it was too long to be turned around." Speaking through an interpreter Kruchowski said he lived in Poland.

He admitted one offence of driving with excess alcohol on November 24. He gave a reading of 118 microgrammes in a 100 millilitres of breath after his arrest. The legal limit is 35 microgrammes.

Mr Ravi Dev, defending, said Kruchowski would most certainly lose his job if he was sent to prison. "My client would say that he is very sorry for what he has done."He said the driver lived with his mother and had been driving to the UK for four years.

Judge Mr Michael Morris told the defendant he would not give him a suspended sentence. He jailed him for eight week and banned Kruchowski from driving for three years.

When Jordanne met Boris

HALESOWEN'S Jordanne Whiley has been her wheelchair tennis skills alongside Boris Johnson at the launch of her latest tournament. The 22-year-old created sporting history when she won the women's wheelchair doubles at the US Open this year. In landing the title Jordanne became the first British player to complete a calendar Grand Slam – another milestone to add to her bronze medal at the 2012 Paralympics.

Wendy Lawrence, of Parsonage Street, West Bromwich, with the hole in her ceiling

Shock as ceiling in bedroom falls down

SHE reported a crack in her ceiling several times – but council tenant Wendy Lawrence was stunned to find this scene greeting her when she came home from work. Personal possessions and Christmas presents have been destroyed after the ceiling caved in on her dressing table. Mother-of-three Mrs Lawrence says she returned from work to find the crack had turned into a 3ft hole.

Mrs Lawrence, who works as a ward service officer at Sandwell Hospital, said: "I could have cried I was so shocked and upset."

She says she is now having to re-buy a number of gifts, including £120 worth of Xbox games. "Gifts can be replaced but I have lost a number of trinket boxes from family holidays, nothing can replace those. It could have been much worse. It isn't very long since I decorated my bedroom."

It is believed the damage to her ceiling was caused when water from the draining system outside her home leaked into her ceiling causing it to fall through.

Mrs Lawrence says she reported the cracks to the council twice last year, but towards the end of September this year, the second crack progressed, going from one and a half inches to 1ft long.

Councillor Mahboob Hussain, said: "We have arranged for a roofing contractor to deal with the leak problem. As soon as those repairs have been fixed we will be dealing with the ceiling."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tory candidate chosen for seat

THE Tories have chosen a candidate to try to win a Labour seat at the General Election.

Olivia Seccombe has been selected by the Sandwell Conservative Federation to contest West Bromwich East, held by Labour's Tom Watson.

She said: "I was born and grew up in the West Midlands. My family had a business based in Tyseley and my connections with Birmingham and the Black Country are strong. When I talk to people in West Bromwich East, they tell me they want a change."

400 sign up to be Snow Champions

MORE than 400 people have been recruited to become Snow Champions in Sandwell.

They will join the 7,000 volunteers ready to hit the streets with snow shovels and salt in the event of bad weather.

Council leader Councillor Darren Cooper said: "Snow Champions clear pavements and paths to help others get aroundor they use the equipment to clear paths and driveways for elderly or vulnerable people."

Bingo player hits £195,000 jackpot

A BINGO player struck lucky by taking home a jackpot prize of £195,388 in Oldbury.

The young player, who regularly enjoys the game, claimed the prize during the evening session on November 13 at Mecca Bingo.

General Manager Andrew Smith, said: "We're delighted for our recent winner, and are pleased we have hit another jackpot at Mecca Bingo Oldbury."

Ex player to be Razor sharp guest

EX-FOOTBALLER turned reality television star Neil Ruddock appears in the Black Country tomorrow night (Friday).

'Razor' will be the guest speaker at a meeting of Tipton Youth FC at Tipton Sports Academy. Doors open 7pm and tickets at £35 with a three-course meal, auction and comedian. Call 07789711538.

Shop cafe plan

PLANS have been submitted to turn a vacant shop into a cafe. The property at Bowstoke Road, Great Barr, used to be an off-licence. Two full-time staff members would be employed by the cafe.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

A GROUP of cat owners have posted images on the internet allegedly proving that, if you create a circle on the floor, a cat will automatically sit inside it. So I made a circle of rope on the lounge floor and our old tabby pointedly stayed outside it and eventually sat down next to it. This proves the oldest feline rule of all. The more you want a cat to do something, the less it will.

I LOVE this email: "Receive an envelope from the NHS today containing two letters. One confirmed a hospital appointment. The other cancelled it. This is factual. I'm not clever enough to make this stuff up."

I HAVE an explanation for the curious case of the reader whose smartphone suddenly produced a text message from an optician shortly after she walked past the premises. It is something called proximity marketing. But all the descriptions I have seen stress that users have to opt-in to the system in order to receive messages. You don't recall opting-in? I would hazard a guess that it was somewhere in the terms and conditions, that vast mass of legal bumf that nobody ever bothers to read. In fact, let's have a National T&C Day when everybody refuses to sign up to anything on the internet without first thoroughly reading every single paragraph of the terms and conditions. The system would crash.

ON the bodge-it-yourself website DIYnot, the conversation turns to the difficulty of finding good tradespeople in London. A contributor in the capital writes enviously: "Outside London all the people are well suited to manual labour. They all wear wellingtons and drive to work on tractors." Yup, that's us.

STRANGE times. It used to be the rule that anyone becoming prime minister would be more unpopular during his term in Downing Street than at any other time in his life. How times change. Weird Ed is record-breakingly unpopular before he gets anywhere near No 10 and Tony Blair, the multi-millionaire bringer-of-peace, is even more detested today than when he was in residence.

THE tear-jerking Sainsbury's yuletide advert, set in the Christmas Truce of 1914, has obviously been working its sentimental magic. A contributor to one of the national newspapers implores us: "Should we not have compassion for the thousands of German soldiers, also sons, fathers and brothers?" I can see why someone might want to extend remembrance to the amiable, photogenic young German soldiers in the Sainsbury's ad. But what about their comrades who ransacked the Belgian city of Louvain, torched its priceless medieval library and executed hundreds of civilians, including women and children? Do they, too, deserve a place in our hearts and a chunk of our Sainsbury chocolate? And what about Hitler's death squads, or today's enemy, the Taliban and their fellow beheaders, the Islamic State? Are they all to be remembered with compassion, too? If not, why not? The moment we start extending compassion to all our enemies is the moment we put our soldiers on the same moral level as Jihadi John. Not in my name, thanks.

INCIDENTALLY, there's not much evidence that a football match was played between German and British soldiers during the 1914 truce. Most accounts describe the soldiers exchanging gifts, showing each other family photos and talking about football. No matter. The image of a football match is so powerful that it is remorselessly passing into history without the need for any historical evidence. It should have happened, so let us tell the kids it did happen.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Schools in £450k bid for dining hall

TWO schools struggling to provide meals without disrupting lessons are bidding for £450,000 to bring their kitchen and dining facilities up to scratch.

Lutley Primary School in Halesowen and Netherton C of E Primary are both looking to secure cash for the work. Education bosses said both schools are having to run 'excessively long' lunch hours. A new dining hall will be created at Lutley Primary, which will free up the main hall, which is being used at lunchtime, for PE lessons.

The school is applying for a grant of £230,000 from the Department for Education towards the project.

Netherton CE Primary is applying for £220,000 to install a new kitchen. Bosses say it will end the need for all meals to be brought into school through a teaching area. Dudley's children's services boss Councillor Tim Crumpton said: "We have two schools who are unable to deliver the free school meal initiative without significant disruption to the school day."

"The bid will be submitted to request total capital funding of £450,000, £230,000 of the capital funding will be used to provide a new dining hall at Lutley Primary School to enable delivery of hot meals and reduce disruption to the school curriculum.

"The bid will also be submitted to request £220,000 capital funding to install a new kitchen at Netherton C of E Primary school to ensure that hot meals can be provided on site reducing disruption to the school curriculum and resolving health and safety issues," he added.

Since September all infant children have been entitled to free meals.

School pays tribute to 'shining light' Lauryn

Report by Andrew Turton

THEY came together to line their school grounds in solemn tribute to their friend and fellow pupil who died after her brave fight with cancer.

Friends stood to pay their respects to Oldbury Academy pupil Lauryn Wray-Lee as the funeral cortege arrived on Monday morning.

The 15-year-old, of Primrose Hill, Smethwick, died earlier this month after a three-year battle with cancer. Lauryn had Wilms disease – a form of cancer affecting the kidneys.

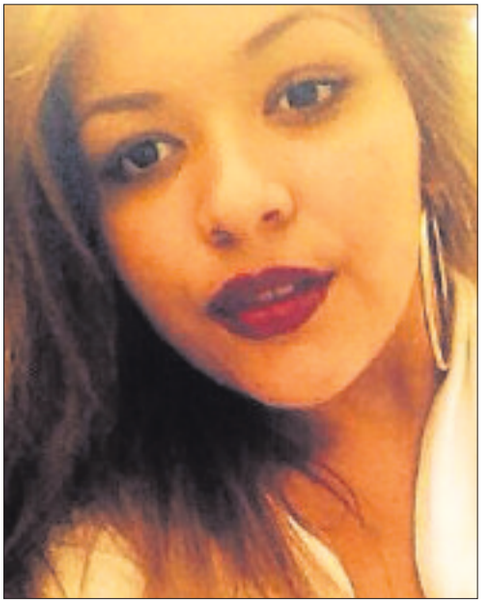
A horse-drawn carriage leading the funeral cortege arrived to take Lauryn on a final journey through the school grounds in Pound Road, Oldbury. She had always loved horses and her family wanted that to be reflected in the funeral procession. Students from across all year groups stood in tribute as the procession passed through the school grounds.

Friends

Pink and red balloons, many featuring personal tributes from friends, were also released in her memory. Other flowers and balloons were laid and tied around benches at the school.

Deputy headteacher Leigh Moore said Lauryn was 'bubbly and popular' and 'touched the lives of so many children here at the school'.

"Lauryn was a shining light," said Miss Moore. Lauryn's older sister Danielle said 'cancer never took her smile away' and that the family were devastated by her death. Family members decided not to tell Lauryn the extent of her plight in her final weeks saying that the hope helped keep her looking forward. Lauryn loved music, make up and having her nails done and dreamed of leaving school to become an entrepreneur and have her own business. In May 2011, Lauryn fainted while at school and was subsequently diagnosed with a Wilms tumour. She was referred to Birmingham Children's Hospital and started chemotherapy within weeks.



Lauryn dreamed of becoming a businesswoman

She had an operation to remove the tumour and continued chemotherapy for another eight months.

Shortly afterwards doctors were able to deliver the news that the treatment had been successful and Lauryn was in remission for six months. But during a routine follow-up appointment, a scan showed that the tumour had returned and had also reached the schoolgirl's lungs.

She was forced into long stays at the children's hospital which included an intense 28-week course of chemotherapy.

Lauryn had a second operation in August where part of her lung was removed and the doctors said she was in remission for five weeks. But in September the tumour had returned again. It was almost covering her lungs and doctors had to inform the family that her condition was terminal.

Danielle said: "Cancer never took her smile away. If you didn't know her you wouldn't have known that she was ill."

Lauryn, who was a keen dancer, was also a big fan of the film musical Grease. Friends and teachers had hoped to host a party for her themed on the film before she died. Some of her friends intended to dress up as the Pink Ladies from Grease in her honour.

The funeral cortege made a fitting tribute

Pupils pay their respects to Lauryn

Her family said Oldbury Academy had been very supportive throughout her three-year treatment.

Danielle said her sister had taken a lot of strength from her friends which helped keep her positive.

Family members now want to thank MacMillian Cancer Support for all its help and the Dream Trust which helped provide Lauryn with happy holidays to the seaside, including trips to Blackpool and Weston-super-Mare. Lauryn is survived by her parents – Caroline and Spencer – and siblings Danielle, 25, Jordan, 20, Tiegan, nine, Brooklyn, six, and 18-month-old Rio. Her funeral was held at Holy Trinity Church, Smethwick, followed by a service at Sandwell Crematorium.

Details on project to deal with flooding

DETAILS of a multi-million pound scheme to protect a popular beauty spot will be explained at a drop-in event next month.

The Environment Agency will spend £20million on a plan to reduce risks from flooding to people in Sandwell. It will also aim to protect the Sandwell Valley and farm attraction Forge Mill Farm.

The agency is inviting residents to find out more about the scheme at an event at Forge Mill Farm Shop, in Forge Lane, on December 2 from 10am to 4pm.

So far, the agency has said the project will see an increase in capacity at the Forge Mill flood storage area.

The scheme was designed following incidents of major flooding along the River Tame, including in June and July in 2007.

Project manager Rachel Kelly said: "Our proposed designs will offer a reduction in flood risk to hundreds of properties along a 14km stretch of river, including the communities of Perry Barr and Witton.

"Our new design also offers excellent potential to deliver environmental improvements in the Sandwell Valley area at Forge Mill."

Bargains to be had with festive fair

A CHRISTMAS fair takes place in aid of church funds this Saturday.

The event, due to be held at Wesley Methodist Church, High Street, West Bromwich, will start at 11am.

There will be lots of stalls for people looking for a Christmas bargain, including fancy goods, jewellery and a white elephant stall.

A tombola will be in operation offering dozens of prizes for visitors and there will be homemade cakes, jams and pickles on sale.

Refreshments include bacon and egg baps. The RNLI will be in attendance and local historian Terry Price who will have postcards with local photographs for sale as well as a few hardback copies of his book West Bromwich Yesterdays.

For more information, contact Beryl Price on 01922 635891.

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Ring and ride fees to rise as finds cut

RING and ride buses are having their funding slashed by £700,000 – with fares to use them in the evening set to double.

Council leaders in the West Midlands will give £7.8 million to run the service next year, down from £8.5m paid for the current year.

It will mean the £1 fare for using the service after 7pm will go to £2.

But the Sunday service scrapped this year will be brought back in, with a £2 charge. The £1 for using it Monday to Friday before 7pm will be fixed.

Around 22,000 people use the door to door minibuses, operated by charity West Midlands Special Needs Transport.

It runs across Wolverhampton, Sandwell, Dudley, Walsall, Birmingham, Coventry and Solihull.

Earlier this year the 60p fare went up to £1 in another wave of cuts.

The service risked losing all its subsidy completely and bosses had considered charges pensioners and disabled people an annual fare.

The new cuts are expected to result in 160,000 trips a year.

The review of the service was led by Councillor Darren Cooper, leader of Sandwell Council.

Witness plea after attack

A MAN was punched and kicked by three attackers as he tried to prevent them entering his partner's home.

The incident happened in Meadow Walk, Old Hill, on Sunday, November 16, at around 10.50pm.

The attackers tried to force entry and pushed the 37-year-old to the floor, where he was punched and kicked. When his fiancée came to confront the intruders they ran off.

Ambulance crews were sent but the man needed no further treatment. Sandwell Police want witnesses to call 101.

Care home plan

FIFTY jobs could be created at a residential care home off Harvest Road, Rowley Regis. Sandwell Community Caring Trust has permission to build a 62-bed home but is seeking to amend the proposals to accommodate 81 adults, giving priority to older people with dementia.

Temporary dash of colour as HQ takes shape

The West Brom Building Society new HQ

BRINGING a temporary splash of colour to the Black Country, the new headquarters of the West Bromwich Building Society are rapidly taking shape.

Giant, eye-catching red and blue panels have been installed on the outer walls of the five-storey complex, at Providence Plaza off The Expressway.

However, they will soon be covered up with the final white and terracotta exterior.

When completed next year, the 70,000 sq ft new landmark site will cater for 700 staff. Bosses say the exterior work to the building should be finished by the end of this year. The whole project remains on course to be completed on fitting out the new headquarters by next spring.

West Bromwich chief executive Jonathan Westhoff described the new complex as 'impressive' and said it was a 'fitting building to take the society forward'.

The development site is close to the £200 million flagship New Square shopping precinct.

The new building will include state-of-the-art ventilation, heating and lighting control systems to minimise energy consumption. When finished the building will replace the West Brom's current headquarters in the High Street, where it has been based since 1978.

The new building will also house an administration centre offering direct services for West Brom savings accounts, mortgages and investments and will support the society's network of 37 branches.

Birmingham-based Associated Architects was appointed to design the new building.

The original plan for the society's expansion was to move hundreds of staff to the Point North development at The Waterfront, close to Merry Hill shopping centre.

MP wants national inquiry on child sex allegations

LABOUR MP Tom Watson has stressed that a national investigation into historical allegations of organised child sexual abuse must be set up.

The West Bromwich East MP first raised claims of a 'paedophile ring' in the House of Commons two years ago during Prime Minister's Questions.

Labour MP Tom Watson

But he says new allegations, including claims of the rape and murder of young boys by a network of VIP paedophiles, go far beyond what he originally spoke of. Allegations of abuse have come from all over the country.

Mr Watson said: "I'm concerned that if we end up with multiple police investigations evidence could slip through the net.

"The latest allegations are far greater and very different to the question I first asked more than two years ago. These are even darker and more sinister."

Shocking

Detectives examining allegations of historic sex abuse with links to government have launched a new investigation into 'possible homicide'.

Writing on his website Mr Watson said: "The allegations of cruelty, torture and murder are truly shocking.

"It is vital the police quickly establish the facts.It's such a disturbing allegation.

"We are at a point where the Government should consider a national police inquiry made up of specialists from around the country.

"It is unfair to ask police in London alone to investigate alleged crimes that took place in many regions of the UK.

"I am writing to the Prime Minister to make this request."

Transport strategy

A 10-YEAR plan for transport in the West Midlands is to be drawn up.

The leaders of the seven West Midlands metropolitan councils and the region's three Local Enterprise Partnerships are already working together on initiatives to increase economic output, jobs and housing. But they say they need to improve transport links to make the most of the HS2 rail link.

The seven leaders, who together with representatives from the three LEPs make up the West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority (ITA), agreed to draw up a strategic transport plan.

Walsall, Sandwell, Dudley, Birmingham, Coventry and Solihull councils are also part of the group.

Town's most famous in the picture

From left, Rev Ian Shelton, organiser Joyce Walker, and artist Pete Taylor launch the calendars at St Giles Church

HUNDREDS of calendars showing scenes and famous people from Rowley Regis are to go on sale to raise money for church funds.

The calendars, called Images of Rowley, were the idea of St Giles Church. They were designed by local youngsters and residents after an art competition was launched.

Residents were invited to submit pictures of people, places or scenery in the area and 13 were chosen from almost 98 entries. The church is the front cover of the calendar, which also features Britannia Park, Warrens Hall and a portrait of local musician Pete Williams, the bass player for Dexys Midnight Runners.

A total of 300 calendars have been printed and will be available to buy at the church's Christmas fair on Saturday, November 29, from midday.

Joyce Walker, aged 59, a church member who helped to organise the calendar, said: "All ages and abilities have taken part and 13 pictures were chosen for the calendar, including a picture for the front which will be St Giles Church.

"The ones that have been picked include a portrait of Pete Williams from Dexys Midnight Runners, Britannia Park, and Warrens Hall.

"If we sell all the calendars, we should raise £1,500. We also wanted to do this to raise the profile of the area."

The calendars, which cost £5 each, are also available from Mrs Walker on 0121 559 8418.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Knife threat man 'acted like child'

A MAN who made threats and went to a house armed with a knife after his girlfriend received nasty comments on Facebook had 'behaved like a child in a playground', a judge has said.

Mark Finch, aged 37, of Macmillan Road, Rowley Regis, was given a six-month prison sentence, suspended for two years at Shrewsbury Crown Court.

He admitted charges of harassment and affray and was found guilty of being in possession of a bladed article in Anderson Road, Smethwick on July 6 last year.

Upgrade on cards for CCTV cameras

CCTV cameras across Sandwell borough are being revamped in a bid to help to cut anti-social behaviour and crime.

The technology will be upgraded thanks to £17,000 from the Police & Crime Commissioner's Invest to Save scheme.

The cameras are located in Princes End, Tipton and the Soho and Victoria ward which covers Smethwick.

The upgrade will enable them to produce higher quality images to be used by police.

Drugs found after blaze at property

POLICE uncovered a cannabis factory spread across five rooms of a Oldbury house after a fire.

Officers were called to Inkberrow Close on November 18 after firefighters discovered the 430 plants with an estimated value of £250,000.

Fire damage was minimal and contained to an electrical board at the recently built detached. No arrests were made.

Pair facing court on woman's death

TWO men face Sandwell magistrates on December 2 over the death of Rebecca McManus, of Oldbury in Hagley Road West.

Sukvinder Mannan, of Roundhills Road, Halesowen and Inderjit Singh, of Cranbourne Avenue, Ettingshall, are charged in relation to dangerous driving, failing to provide a sample and failing to stop.

Homes approved

FOURTEEN homes will be built on the site of a former special school in Smethwick. Permission has been granted for the scheme in Holly Lane, where Albert Bradford Special School once stood.

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews

IN THE nauseating new trailer for ITV's daytime schedule, Philip Schofield asks viewers what their phobias are.

I'm no expert on the subject. But I would imagine Gok Wan and Janet Street-Porter being dragged out of bed by Lorraine Kelly and told you need a makeover must all feature pretty highly.

❑❑❑❑

TWENTY-SEVEN police stations across the West Midlands are set to close their front counters over the next year in an effort to save £3m.

Under the plans, only just 10 will remain open, with only one of those remaining open round the clock.

For the first time in living memory, towns like Walsall and Dudley will have no police station where members of the public can walk in for help.

If you need to call into a police station in Wolverhampton or West Bromwich after 10pm, forget it.

Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson, says the front desks are a throwback from a bygone age, and that the world has moved on.

"Ninety-five per cent of people have mobile phones now, and can contact the police from anywhere," he says.

"Research shows that very few people are visiting front desks and prefer to phone the police or use the internet rather than go to a police station."

It really is hard to know where to start with all that.

I'm sure he's right most people would prefer to avoid calling into a police station unless they really have to.

Indeed I'm fairly sure, that in an ideal world, most of us would prefer never to need to have any dealings with the police at all. But it is nice to know they are there in case we need them.

If 95 per cent of the population has a mobile phone, that means five per cent don't have one.

What about them?

And, of course, contacting the police by phone these days invariably means being redirected to a call centre miles away.

And while 95 per cent may well have mobile phones, what happens when you have just been robbed of your phone in the city centre?

❑❑❑❑

AND one other thing. Suppose you get pulled over by the police in your car, and they ask you to produce your documents the following day.

Will they be happy for you now to send them by text or email? Or will you now be expected to drive miles to find a police station which is still open?

Just a thought.

The fate of too many languages – Tower of Babel

How do teachers cope with so many languages?

Head of Ofsted Sir Michael Wilshaw

It's a real problem – in any language

With 140 languages being spoken in some regions it's a nightmare for teachers, says NIGEL HASTILOW

IT'S still called the Black Country but perhaps we should rename it the Babel Country – a place where so many languages are spoken nobody can understand anyone else.

It was recently revealed that at least 140 different languages are spoken in Sandwell's schools, with 130 recorded in Wolverhampton and 50 in Dudley.

Across the country it seems, according to Government figures, the number of schoolchildren speaking English as a second language has soared by a third in five years – to nearly one in five.

How schools are supposed to cope with this is anybody's guess. It must be a nightmare for teachers.

Problem

Even if they had a command of one or two foreign languages, few will have any chance of communicating with a child who speaks only Tagalog (spoken in the Philippines) or Ga (South Eastern Ghana).

Sir Michael Wilshaw, the head of Ofsted, is warning that schools need more help to deal with the problem.

He says: 'When they're faced with an influx of children from other countries, they need the resources and capacity to deal with it and if those resources aren't there, that's a big issue for government.'

The Government says it's created 260,000 more school places and is throwing billions at the problem.

The simple answer would be to teach in, and speak only, English in our junior schools. That won't happen, of course, so we will have to add more to the £120 billion we have already spent on non-EU migrants since 1995.

The number of children speaking English as a second language has soared

This is not fair on people who have been born and bred in Britain and whose families have paid their taxes here for generations. They don't count. And if their children's education is hampered because half their classmates can't actually speak the lingo, that's hard luck too.

Parents will just have to get used to paying higher taxes to make sure we provide language specialists to help all these non-English speakers.

There are dozens of jobs available for ESOL teachers. ESOL is the politically-correct acronym for what used to be called Teaching English as a Foreign Language.

It stands for English for Speakers of Other Languages (the word 'foreign' is no doubt considered judgmental). Pay rates vary from £55 a day to £161.

This advertisement for an ESOL teacher in Sandwell is typical: 'This is an extremely important role as it will help shape the educational progress of pupils in the school and also make them more confident as they start their journey in a new country.'

It's nice Sandwell should want to make its pupils 'more confident as they start their journey in a new country' – but how do they come to be making that journey and why are they travelling without the language skills needed to survive?

The absence of a serious policy on immigration over the last couple of decades is clearly the main reason for this influx of children who can't speak English.

Let's suppose, for the sake of argument, that all these children are the offspring of legal immigrants. Suppose their parents reached these shores from Ghana, Nigeria and the Philippines without having to hang underneath a lorry or stow away in the back of someone's car.

Assume

Then it must be reasonable to assume the parents came here with a job to go to and some ability to make their way in this strange new world.

So they must have some command of the English language otherwise how do they survive at work? How could they buy food or find accommodation?

So why are parents not teaching their children English at home? They have moved to Britain to start a new life so they have a duty to do their best to assimilate.

The first job is, surely, being able to communicate with the natives. Even if your neighbour is from Warsaw rather than Walsall, at least you might be able to talk to each other if you both know English.

Better still, a knowledge of English won't just allow immigrants to communicate, it will inevitably teach them a little about the culture, values and way of life of the country they now live in.

If they can speak English before they arrive but neglect to teach their children our language, it should not be a school's job to remedy that.

WEEK IN POLITICS

with Daniel Wainwright

AMID the anger over the planned closure of police station front desks, I have to feel a little bit sorry for David Jamieson.

The West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner was elected into the role at enormous cost and on a measly low turnout.

At £3.7 million and serving an electorate of about two million people it was one of the biggest and most expensive by-elections ever. Yet while Labour's Mr Jamieson won a decisive victory with more than 50 per cent of the votes cast, it was not the greatest moment for democracy.

Barely one in 10 people bothered to vote for who they wanted to fill a role few even understood.

It showed that, almost two years on from when the role was created, not that many people wanted to accept the offer of greater political and democratic accountability within the force.

This week a lot of people read the name David Jamieson. MPs from his own party are demanding he change a plan to shut the front desks of 27 police stations and reduce the opening hours of others.

The argument in favour is that few people go to the police station in person now, preferring instead to communicate by phone or internet. But, inevitably, the talk turns to the £3 million saving, coming as it does at a time of deep cuts in police funding.

If there was no police and crime commissioner in the first place, there would have been no election and therefore no cost to the taxpayer. In short, that's another year's worth of front desks staying open.

And before anyone gets all pedantic and points out that the election costs are met by the Home Office and the front desks by the police, just remember it's all public money. The source of it, whether central or local government, is you.

Where I feel especially sorry for David Jamieson is how isolated he now appears within his own party. Of course his colleagues in Parliament are keeping things professional. But they are all agreed this is a bad idea.

They put on a united front by blaming the Government for the cuts, but the final decision on how to deal with them rests with the Commissioner.

If he does give in to the demands of Westminster politicians it would call into question the whole point of the role. After all, why have a locally-elected police commissioner if he changes his mind after petitions and letters from MPs?

When Dudley Labour MP Ian Austin brought up the plan with William Hague in the Commons he was just told how satisfied people have been with the police, effectively pushing responsibility back up to Mr Jamieson in his office in Birmingham.

The review of front desks was started by Mr Jamieson's predecessor Bob Jones, whose sudden death triggered the by-election.

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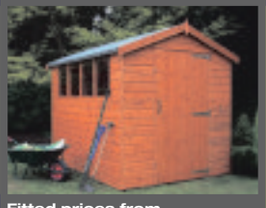
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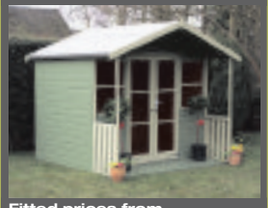
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Care shown at remembrance service

ON November 9 in Darlaston we held our Remembrance Services at our parish church and War Memorial. In all the years I have attended the service I have never seen so many there from the young to not so young. It reflects the character of the people of the Darlaston area who always show their care.

There was also a first rate turn out at the War Memorial on November 11 for our Service of Remembrance even though it was a cold and wet day.

I would like to thank Jeffery Johnson who organised the sale of poppies and wreaths and is our bugler, all our poppy sellers, Asda who made space in the store for the poppy sales, the Reverend Liz Jones who presided on the services, the Air Cadets who were as smart and well drilled as ever, the Girl Guides, Scouts, Brownies and Cubs. Our MP Valerie Vaz attended both Walsall and our Darlaston ceremonies and the police again did an excellent job.

BILL MADELEY MBE, President Walsall &District Branch, British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association

Pressure on staff at hospitals

READING the terrible tragedy of the nurse who found there was no one who was listening to him at the Manor Hospital – I can certainly agree with that.

For all of management's big words about offering support and putting in place stress training – which was only done as a rush measure after the events, it is not surprising one bit. I blame the management for the stress that staff are under.

Lack of staff, vulnerable patients left uncared for due to not filling request to cover sickness, people going through the indignity of being prepared in toilets for theatre just to save them from cancelling their operations, the idiotic emphasis on cleaning wards – further reducing time to care, and the biggest stress factor leaving us to deal with hostile relatives who react to such circumstances.

Pressures are being brought to bear on staff constantly. Sooner or later I pray that someone else does not feel this way.

S STROUD
Wednesbury

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Sandwell Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
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Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

E-MAIL
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@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

What will happen to England now?

WHAT happens in England now? The country watched how all the main political parties stuck together en masse to support the independence 'no' vote in the Scottish referendum.

They even allowed Gordon Brown, ex-Prime Minister and a Scotsman and the man mainly responsible for the 'Scottish Claim of Right' that led us here, offer the Scots terms of agreement for a 'no' vote.

How differently these parties reacted when the Scots accepted this agreement, no mass support from them for England to receive anything like this devolution settlement. The Conservatives thought a consideration was necessary after they thought the offer had highlighted how England was being treated unfairly. It is surprising that any political party noticed this when you consider that England has been treated unfairly by all mainstream political parties since New Labour's devolution programme of 1998.

The English don't believe these political parties, through self-interest, have any intention of tending to England's grievances with anything like the vigour they fought for Scotland's.

Any talk of regional government in any form by any political party or politicians without first giving England and the English nation national recognition should be fought against if England is to survive.

J STANHOPE, West Midlands Campaign for an English Parliament

Not working to fine banks

TRAIN robber Ronnie Briggs was sentenced to 30 years for his crime, so how is it that not one banker has seen a day in prison for robbing billions?

It's obvious that self-regulation doesn't work, and fining banks millions of pounds is some sort of sick joke, because no matter how much you fine them it ends up on our bill.

So just when is the government going to tell us how much LIBOR put on our mortgages, and just what have we paid over the top for our dollars?

We have been ripped off every time we've paid a bill, taken to the cleaners at the ATM and robbed by the men in Armani, and what does our government do?

Well, it climbs into bed with the money men and gives them a bonus.

S T VAUGHAN
Yardley Wood

Well done on joining forces

FOR once I agree with council leader Darren Cooper about the Black Country joining forces with Birmingham.

I also congratulate him on objecting to the term 'Greater Birmingham'. Birmingham and the Black Country has been suggested, but what about the Black Country and Birmingham?

There is one question however. Next month if Birmingham celebrates 'Winterval' to appease minorities, can the rest of us celebrate Christmas instead?

R W WHITE
West Bromwich

Pubgoers in fine voice to help charity

Landlady Sue Burbridge, Hazel Windsor, Margaret Mason and Gordon Lloyd with Stevie G, Brenda Hartill and regulars

PUBGOERS in West Bromwich are being urged to get in tune for a good cause. Sue Burbridge, former landlady at the Halfway House pub, Black Lake, has collected around £60,000 over 15 years of raising money for the Donna's Dream House charity.

The Old Meeting Street pub, until eight years ago named the Queen's Head, hosts several events throughout the week including darts, karaoke and live music – but it is the 'free and easy' Tuesday afternoon sing-alongs, from 2-6pm, which for many are the week's highlight.

Those who attend are invited to get up and sing along with an organ, followed by a game of bingo or cards and a weekly raffle.

Sue, aged 66 and now retired, said: "I would urge everyone to come along. It's all about having a good laugh and at the same time helping out a wonderful cause."

Statue plans hit by delay

PLANS to unveil a statue honouring West Bromwich Albion's 'Three Degrees' face a delay as the remaining funding is sourced.

A gala dinner due to take place this month remembering one of the three stars, Laurie Cunningham, has been postponed until the new year.

But organiser, businessman Jim Cadman, has reiterated that the plans to reveal the statue remained on course to be held next July – a year behind the original schedule.

The bronze statue, costing £220,000, will be erected in West Bromwich town centre, near New Square shopping centre.

Barriers

It will feature the trailbrazing trio of Cunningham, Cyrille Regis and Brendon Batson who are all credited with helping bring down barriers in the fight against racism on the terraces.

Mr Cadman said they still hoped to raise around £30,000 towards the statue. He said the club's own scheme to create the statue honouring Tony 'Bomber' Brown had been the priority but now momentum could gather pace as part of the separate project.

"The project has received a lot of backing so far and we are determined to make it happen," he said.

Police station front desk closure bid sparks anger

MPS have reacted with anger to proposals to close 27 front desks and reduce opening hours at police stations across the Black Country.

West Midlands Police announced the move last week in a bid to save £3 million.

In total there will be 27 front offices across the region closed with more than 90 of the 170 jobs at risk.

At least two MPs are writing to Police & Crime Commissioner David Jamieson calling for him to reverse the decision.

Four police stations in Sandwell will close to the public.

The front counters at Smethwick, Tipton, Wednesbury and Old Hill have been earmarked to shut during the next 12 months.

Opening hours will also be reduced at West Bromwich to between 8am and 10pm.

Review

Some front offices could close within months with ones currently manned by PCSOs such as Tipton, Wednesbury, Old Hill and Sedgley anticipated to be first to go to free up officers.

Three front offices in Dudley borough and two in Wolverhampton will be shut with others seeing reduced hours. Police chiefs say the proposals to shut front counters follow an independent review which shows the majority of the public no longer visit stations and instead make phone calls, use the internet and social media to contact officers.

Assistant Chief Constable Carl Foulkes said: "The decision to close front offices has not been taken lightly."

It costs £5.5m to run the counters. Bosses insist there will be buzzer systems at the front entrance to stations to enable the public to contact them.

Smethwick Police Station

The police station at Wednesbury

Tipton Police Station 's front counter is earmarked for closure

Dudley MP Ian Austin has launched a campaign to halt the closure of his town's public counter. It would leave Dudley as the largest town in the country without a police station open to the public.

He said: "This is what happens when the government cuts spending too quickly and too deeply. It is completely unacceptable that a town the size of Dudley should have its police station closed to the public and I'll be campaigning against these cuts.

"I'm collecting signatures so we can send a clear message that these plans are dangerous and unwanted."

To sign the petition, visit Mr Austin's his website, email austini@parliament.uk or call his office on 01384 342 504.

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£12.5m homes on the way to meet demand

DOZENS of new council homes will be built in Sandwell as part of a £12.5million scheme to meet the growing demand for properties across the borough.

Sandwell Council is looking at developing sites around the borough during the next four years.

Land earmarked for development includes the former Bolton Court site in Ocker Hill and Tibbington Terrace, both in Tipton; Doulton Road, Rowley Regis and Kent Close in West Bromwich. A total of 145 homes will be built.

They will include 36 new council homes, seven at Tibbington Terrace and 29 at Kent Close. There will be a further 109 homes for private sale across the Boulton Court, Tibbington Terrace and Doulton Road sites.

Kier will develop the sites and build the council homes under licence for the council which will be added to Sandwell's council housing stock. Funding to build the council homes has come from the council's housing revenue account and receipts from council properties which have been sold under Right to Buy.

The new council homes for rent will be built first with work expected to start in the New Year and scheduled for completion in 2016, with the private properties scheduled to be on the market from 2016-2018.

The deal will also create a number of construction training places and construction jobs for local people.

Councillor Ian Jones, cabinet member for jobs and economy, said: "The demand for housing continues to grow in Sandwell. Working with Kier Partnership Homes, as out development partner on these sites means that we are able to replace some of the homes that we have lost from our own stock through Right to Buy.

"There will also be a number of homes for private sale as well."

Chris King, managing director for Kier Partnership Homes, said: "We are excited and committed to continuing our partnerships with Sandwell Council."

Passenger safety boost

Jobs and economy boss, Councillor Ian Jones, highways boss, Councillor Maria Crompton and Centro representative, Councillor Roger Horton

WORK to carry out £1.4 million project to improve road safety for bus and tram passengers in West Bromwich has been completed.

The new Metro Plaza scheme was created to boost the public transport gateway to the town centre and links for shoppers, pedestrians heading to Sandwell College Central Campus, the bus and metro stations. Under the scheme a dilapidated subway that previously attracted anti-social behaviour was filled in and the width of the Ringway route narrowed to give visitors on foot priority over motorists.

The work was undertaken by Sandwell Council in partnership with West Midlands Passenger Transport Authority – Centro.

Cabinet member for highways and environment, Councillor Maria Crompton said: "The Metro Plaza scheme is testament to what can be achieved when partners work together.

"The project has been delivered successfully with minimal impact to both pedestrians and road traffic vehicles throughout its construction, as a direct result of effective partnership working between Sandwell Council, Centro and the principal contractor Fitzgerald."

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Queens Square Shopping Centre

12.00pm – Ben & Holly Appearance
New Square Shopping Centre

12.00pm – Hagrid (look-a-like) & Falconry "LIVE"
Astle Retail Park

1.00pm – Ben & Holly Appearance
New Square Shopping Centre

1.00pm – Chris Rankin (Percy Weasley)
Queens Square Shopping Centre

1.00pm – Hagrid (look-a-like) & Falconry "LIVE"
Kings Shopping Centre

1.30pm – Hagrid (look-a-like) & Falconry "LIVE"
Indoor Markets

2.00pm – Ben & Holly Appearance
Queens Square Shopping Centre

2.00pm – Chris Rankin (Percy Weasley)
New Square Shopping Centre

2.30pm – Hagrid (look-a-like) & Falconry "LIVE"
New Square Shopping Centre

3.00pm – Ben & Holly Appearance
on High Street, West Bromwich

4.00pm – Christmas Lights Switch on with Blind Dave, Chris Rankin (Percy Weasley), Hagrid (look-a-like) & Falconry PLUS Ben & Holly
High Street, West Bromwich

Christmas Lights

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from Harry Potter - Chris Rankin (Percy Weasley)

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Children reminded of ex-pupils' war deaths

CHILDREN at a Rowley Regis school are reminded of the loss of 33 ex-pupils and six teachers in the First World War.

Buried in graves around the world, from Tanzania to Israel, their stories reveal the magnitude of the Great War.

They also show the undoubted suffering for the men's families, with 16 of the men never found and pronounced missing.

Current pupils at Springfield Primary, in Dudley Road, are reminded of their loss in the form of a marble tablet, which features all the names of the ex-pupils and teachers.

It was placed in a school corridor four years ago, having been moved from Springfield Junior School in Dalton Road, which amalgamated with the infant school in 2000.

Letters

This term, the pupils have been researching the names on the memorial as part of their history project. A tent has been put up outside to replicate a trench. Pupils are also penning letters, as if they were writing home from the war front.

Headteacher Sue Powis said: "Children are aware of the current wars, be it from coverage on television or in the newspapers. But it is important for us to remember the past, not just the current."

Miss Powis positioned the tablet to a prominent place in a school corridor near the reception.

She said: "Communities were left devastated by the loss of these men and it is only right we remember those people.

"It was at the old school building on display. After the move we had it worked on by a stone mason and then moved across here. Research is being carried out into each name, and the pupils are involved in this."

For most the names, the school just have details on which regiment they served in, where they died and where a grave or memorial is located. The ex-pupils range in age from 19 to 34, while the teachers from 23 to 27. Most of them died in France or Belgium.

For remembrance day, crosses with poppies were laid in front of the memorial to mark every man who died. A service was also held in the school.

Springfield Primary youngsters join chairman of governors Jim Williams

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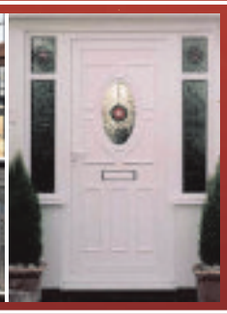

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Company's losses now at £143.3m

THE cost of factory closures, investments and refinancing has dragged West Midlands-based Boparan, parent company of the 2 Sisters food group, to a full-year pre-tax loss of £143.3 million.

But sales for the 12 months to August 2 soared to £3.41 billion, boosted by the group's takeover of the Vion UK's poultry and red meat businesses, from £2.88bn the previous year.

Like-for-like sales were up 2.4 per cent. Stripping out the impact of £101m of restructuring costs and £62.4m to refinance its debt, Boparan's earnings before tax were up 1.3 per cent to £180.3m.

The business, which has chicken processing plants in Smethwick, West Bromwich and Wolverhampton, supplies supermarkets including Sainsbury's and Tesco.

Baubles will boost charity

A CHILDREN'S centre in Smethwick will benefit from a fundraising campaign by a store at Merry Hill Shopping Centre.

Customers at Homesense are able to buy a bauble for £1 on which to write their own festive message and hang on the store's tree.

All proceeds will go to Action for Children's centres in Smethwick and West Bromwich.

The campaign has been running for four years.

FOCUS ON SMETHWICK

Regeneration plan prompts mosque redevelopment bid

A MOSQUE and Islamic centre in Smethwick may soon be knocked down and rebuilt as a three-storey place of worship.

The Masjid and Bangladeshi Islamic Centre, which is based in converted industrial units in Lewisham Road, is a currently one-storey building. Plans are now in the pipeline for its demolition.

In its place there would be a golden aluminium fronted building with facilities including classrooms, an IT suite, gym and a prayer hall.

By Andy Turton

The main building would be created from darker brick and concrete with large glass windows on the front.

Officials say it would be split into two parts linked by a central glazed atrium.

Classrooms

Areas for dining, the gym and IT facilities will be accommodated within the brick-built building with circular windows to allow light inside.

Bosses behind the scheme say the second building contains classrooms, meeting rooms, prayer hall and associated washrooms and toilets. In a report to Sandwell Council, centre leaders say they have consulted with the community as part of the design process.

The decorative gold screen serves several purposes and will form part of the outside of the frontage with Islamic religious and cultural-inspired designs.

Mosque officials said it been created in light of a major multi-million regeneration scheme planning in Smethwick. Work is due to start within weeks on the £42 million Brindley Village II regeneration scheme that sits on the nearby canal.

Almost 200 homes and properties would be built with shops, roads and open spaces created on a 12-acre site around Lewisham Road, Mafeking Road and the Birmingham Mainline canal.

In the report, consultants on behalf of the mosque leaders, said: "The draft Planning and Design brief for Brindley II highlights the site as being an 'important focal point' at the entrance to the development, and that the site is a 'key opportunity for a major landmark building'."

Smethwick Food Bank volunteer Eric Reaney who has just turned 90 years of age

Eric's still a help at the age of 90

A FOOD bank volunteer says he has no intention of calling it a day – despite turning 90.

Eric Reaney has spent most of his life helping others and is believed to be the oldest volunteer in Smethwick.

He has helped out at Smethwick Food Bank for three years.

"I currently work as a greeter," he said.

"I check people have their tokens, treat them to a cup of tea or coffee and make them feel welcome while they wait for their food."

Outside of the food bank, which is held at the Holy Trinity Church, Church Hill Street on Tuesday and Fridays, Mr Reaney has been a member of the British Red Cross for 50 years.

In 2004 he was given an MBE for services to Young People and to the community in Oldbury, after organising church youth clubs for 30 years.

Taxi driver sustains a broken jaw in assault

A suspect caught on CCTV

THIS CCTV image captures one of three suspects sought in connection with a 'racially-motivated' assault on a taxi driver who was left with a fractured jaw.

Police say the attack happened shortly after the taxi was flagged down in Birmingham city centre by a group of men asking to be taken to Smethwick.

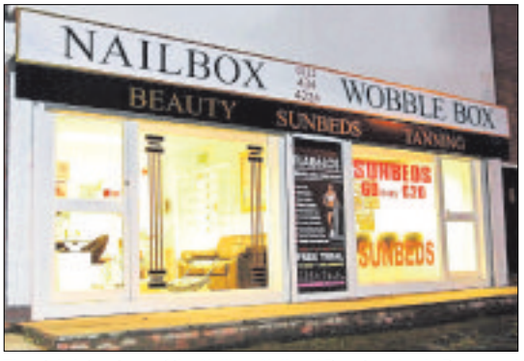
The driver pulled up outside a club in the centre of Broad Street at around 3am on August 2 after he was hailed by the group.

The men asked to go to Smethwick but when the driver requested they pay for their fare in advance they refused.

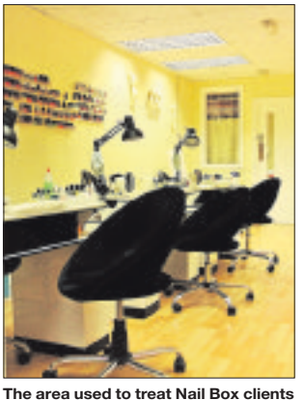
Officers say the men then began to bang on the cab and hurl racist insults at the driver who tried to get out of the car and flag down some help.

Anyone with information is urged to call police on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Latest additions welcomed at salon



The stylish frontage of the Nailbox Nail and Beauty salon in Bearwood



The area used to treat Nail Box clients

WELCOME to Wobble Box, our latest addition to the Nailbox Nail and Beauty salon in Bearwood, Birmingham.

We are excited to announce the opening of our Wobble Box and tanning area, offering the very latest FLABéLOS top of the range weight loss and Whole Body Vibration machine along with the sensational AURORA high powered Vertical Sunbeds.

Leaders

We are proud to currently be the only salon in the area with the latest FLABéLOS wobble machine offering 300 calorie burns and all medically approved.

Our AURORA vertical sunbeds are also market leaders with the highest powered 225 watt brand new tubes offering fantastic tanning with up to 12 minute sessions. Wobble Box and Nailbox offer Whole Body Vibration, Tanning, Nail and Beauty treatments in a friendly and professional environment based on Three Shires Oak Road in the heart of Bearwood, we also have free parking right outside.

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

We have relocated across the road to larger premises to cater for the large amount of existing customers we have and to enable us to grow and cater for more clients at one time.

We have more than 10 years experience in the beauty industry and our qualified staff are always at hand to offer a warm welcome and a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to existing and new customers.

The FLABéLOS area at Wobble Box

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Wed-Fri 9.30 am-8 pm
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Sun 10 am-4 pm

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The war veteran at his home in Rushall Close, Walsall

Historical author Heather Steele, Graham and Karl Konig in Normandy in 2014

Graham Stevenson, second left, in Tarhuna in Tunisia in 1943

Graham Stevenson aged 15 with his father Harry

War veteran honoured and humbled by award

GRAHAM Stevenson was so eager to join the Army he lied about his age when he signed up.

MEMORY LANE

By Katy Rose Meaney

The soldier boy was just 16 when he enlisted, but told the recruitment officer he was 18. The officer called him a 'good lad' and he was enrolled on December 11, 1941.

"To serve in any way was a privilege," says the veteran from Walsall who has now been awarded the prestigious Legion of Honour medal for his service during the Second World War.

Now aged 89, he was notified by the Ministry Of Defence that he was to receive the award from France, officially titled the Chevalier de l'Ordre national de la Légion d'Honneur and said it was a 'complete surprise' but one he was very proud of.

As a teenager, Mr Stevenson signed up first to the Royal Armoured Corps. The young soldier was sent to Catterick in North Yorkshire for training before he was deployed to the Middle East. Mr Stevenson, of Rushall, recalls: "It took six weeks to get there on a boat called The Empress of Japan.

"I worked as an anti-aircraft gunner while on-board. I was sent to Cairo and we fought across the Western desert in Libya, and the historic region of Tripolitana.

"We finished in Tunisia where we finally beat the African core and the Italians."

He came home that December just before his 19th birthday and was sent to fight at Normandy in June 1944 with the Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry. While in France he was shot. Mr Stevenson said: "I was injured on July 11, 1944 in Tilly-sur-Seulles. I was outside my tank when I had a burst of machine gun fire through my right arm and that was the end of it for me. I have a very clear memory of that day. I very nearly died."

The solider was taken to a casualty clearing station. While there, he had a transfusion for five pints of blood.

Once he was strong enough, Mr Stevenson was flown back to the UK and spent six months in hospital in Wolverhampton after arriving on a train ambulance.

He was allowed home on November 19 and was later discharged from the Army in 1945, classed as disabled due to his arm injuries. He had a tendon transplant and went back to work in a central wages office where he met his wife, Ella.

The couple wed in March 1946 and were married for 62 years. Mrs Stevenson died six years ago.

Over the decades, Mr Stevenson has donated blood 67 times and has been a poppy seller for 65 years. He has also spent time visiting hospital patients and has been returning to Normandy for the past 10 years.

He now proudly has five British medals, one French medal and a Year of the Volunteer Medal. Of the Legion of Honour, he said: "I am very pleased, it brought back a lot of memories."

Graham in 1944 before being deployed to Normandy

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Eating out with Steven and tucking into a rib-eye steak gets the thumbs-up from Grimefighter funnyman Lew Carrington

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Failing dentures are not only embarrassing, but can compromise lives – not least the choice of food we eat. In a new 'catch-up' series, principal of the Denture Clinic Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) wines and dines patients to see how things have changed since their treatment.

Come dine With me

Now a juicy steak is back on the menu for TV Grimefighter star

WHEN it comes to choosing a meal with Lewis Carrington – the natural funnyman from Wednesfield who won the hearts of the nation in TV documentary Grimefighters – the choice is simple.

Before reading the menu, the charismatic former refuse collector, declares: "I'll have a steak, with chips. They do serve steak, don't they? I don't normally bother with the salad, but it looks healthy doesn't it?"

With an obliging selection of food, the Crown at Wergs, Wolverhampton, serves up a 28-day dry-aged Casterbridge rib-eye, with chunky chips, crispy onions and rocket.

"That's perfect," says Lew.

With a captive audience – host Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) GDC 108353 gets the full-on Lew treatment – and it's not long before the man who topped 1,500 fans on the Grimefighters' Facebook website is sharing his inimitable tales.

"There's a rugby player I know, who lost his ears – it can get a bit rough (you look like a rugby player yourself, Steve).

"Anyway, he went to the doctors, who said if he's have brought the ears to him he could have sewn them back on.

"No worries, though . . . come back later and I'll get you a couple, he said.

"So he did and there waiting to be attached was dog's ear and a pig's ear.

"You'll be alright," says the doc, "just cover 'em up with your hair and come back in a week.

"On his return, the doc asks how he was getting on.

"Well, my dog ear's brilliant I can hear stuff from miles away . . . but with the pig's ear I keep getting a lot of . . . crackling."

Absolutely perfect

But the laughter momentarily dies as Lew recalls past restaurant meals.

"I could have never had done this before getting my teeth fixed. I'd go to a restaurant and make an excuse that I was popping to the toilet and I'd be piling on the denture glue to try and get through the meal without embarrassment.

"I always had to choose something safe, something soft and inevitably something boring. If I'd have chosen the steak, I'd have been done for and the fixative would often let me down before the meal was finished. Being able to sit down at a meal in public and feel secure is priceless."

Lew recalls: "I used fixative by the bucketful and dreaded sneezing – I had to hold in my teeth with my handkerchief." His story, says Steven, is a common one. "Lew had stabilisation. He was an ideal candidate for an implant-retained lower overdenture and the fixing points guaranteed an end to his prosthetic stability issues."

Adds Lew: "I was a bit apprehensive, but I need not have been. I had two implants to stabilise my lower denture and I never felt a thing. Steve made me the overdentures for the bottom and a new top set of teeth. They are absolutely perfect and going to the dentist had never been so good. I am over the moon with the results."

The implants were fitted by Jonathon Pugh BDS MSc (Implant Dentistry) GDC 62663, principal of Total Implant Solutions, Wolverhampton, with whom Steven shares a long-standing working relationship.

"To eat a steak like this without any trouble at all is worth every penny," adds Lew.

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Detecting a gem available on DVD

ON a comedy scene that seems to be getting increasingly cruel and vulgar, recent rural sitcom Detectorists was a welcome dose of gently-paced whimsy on BBC4.

Written and directed by Mackenzie Crook (from The Office), he and Toby Jones (Infamous/Marvellous) play a pair of metal detector enthusiasts who think they are in with a chance of discovering a buried treasure of Staffordshire Hoard proportions. They face competition from a rival metal detecting club, a bonkers landowner and flawed relationships with the opposite sex.

A nicely acted ensemble piece in a market town setting, if not seen it is worth discovering now on DVD.

Leon Burakowski

South songs will fill the Civic Hall

THE songs of The Beautiful South and new album What Have We Become will be heard by a full house at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Friday for Paul Heaton and Jacqui Abbott.

On Friday Peter Gabriel is at the LG Arena, Diversity dance at the NIA, and Gertcha duo Chas & Dave are at Birminghan Town Hall. Synth pop pair Erasure have filled the Civic Hall on Saturday, the same night Wolverhampton's Scott Matthews performs his haunting album Home Part 1 at Birmingham Town Hall. McBusted and Ed Sheeran are among Saturday's acts at Free Radio Live at the LG Arena.

Oh what a night as the Jersey Boys arrive for festive season

Giving Peace a chance

ROCK band Peace follow their acclaimed debut album In Love with their second album, Happy People, on February 9.

The guitar crashing lo-fi outfit bring their surly sound home to the West Midlands for a gig at Birmingham's Institute on January 24.

Droitwich brothers Harry and Sam Koisser joined forces with Doug Castle and Dom Boyce at Worcester Sixth Form College.

In 2014 the band played the main stage of Reading and Leeds festival, sold out numerous dates throughout the UK and released singles Money and Lost on Me.

Fans of Bombay Bicycle Club will get a preview of the new songs with Peace due to support them at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on December 10.

Happy People — Worcestershire rock band Peace are unveiling their 'scuzzy but beautiful' new album, mostly produced by Arctic Monkeys and Kasabian producer Jim Abbiss

JERSEY Boys has now been seen by over 19 million people worldwide and is firmly established as one of the London West End's most popular shows.

Now the show comes to Birmingham on tour, running at the New Alexandra Theatre from December 9 to January 4.

It tells the remarkable true story of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons and their rise to stardom from the wrong side of the track. These four boys from New Jersey became one of the most successful bands in pop history, were inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and sold 175 million records worldwide, all before they turned 30.

Telling their story from the 1950s to 70s, the show is packed with their hits, including Beggin', Sherry, Walk Like A Man, December, 1963 (Oh What a Night), Big Girls Don't Cry, My Eyes Adored You, Let's Hang On (To What We've Got), Bye Bye Baby, Can't Take My Eyes Off You, Working My Way Back to You, Fallen Angel, Rag Doll and Who Loves You.

Worldwide

Jersey Boys is the winner of 55 major awards worldwide, including the Olivier Award for Best New Musical. The show originally opened on Broadway in 2006, receiving the Tony Award for Best Musical. It is still running on Broadway, in Las Vegas and in the West End.

Joining West End star Tim Driesen as Frankie Valli are Stephen Webb, Sam Ferriday and Lewis Griffiths, playing Tommy DeVito, Bob Gaudio and Nick Massi respectively. Matt Corner will play the role of Frankie Valli at certain performances. Also in the cast will be Sean Kingsley as Gyp DeCarlo, Matt Gillett as Bob Crewe, Nathaniel Morrison as Barry Belson and Damian Buhagiar as Joey Pesci, the early fan and 'go fer' who became a movie star.

The actual Frankie Valli brings the latest incarnation of The Four Seasons to Birmingham's Genting Arena (formerly the LG) on July 2 next year.

A scene from hit musical Jersey Boys

Meanwhile, on Wednesday, December 3, the Robin 2 at Bilston hosts seated show Jersey Boy with Stephen James performing the Frankie Valli story with the help of video projection.

The Mount Pleasant venue has more nostalgia on the way. From The Jam, featuring Jam bassist Bruce Foxton, celebrate the 35-year-old Settings Sons album tomorrow night (Friday). Then Nick Dagger and The Counterfeit Stones want to spend the night together on Saturday. Bad Manners bring boisterous ska on December 11, Ray Jackson's Lindisfarne play on December 15 and it's Merry Xmas Everybody from Dave Hill and Don Powell's Slade on December 18.

Popular ballet is a Christmas cracker

IT'S beginning to feel a lot like Christmas... especially now that The Nutcracker is arriving at Birmingham Hippodrome.

The Birmingham Royal Ballet's annual festive treat for its home city is a feel-good seasonal spectacular and a much-loved part of the build up to Christmas in the West Midlands.

It tells the story of a young girl, Clara, who is whisked off to a magical land on Christmas Eve after her brave Nutcracker soldier fights an army of rats. Highlights include the Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy.

Sir Peter Wright's The Nutcracker, featuring the beautiful music of Tchaikovsky, will be staged from tomorrow (Friday) until December 13.

Rocker Joe now faces worlds war

HE dazzled the nation paying tribute to his rock heroes Led Zeppelin and Black Sabbath on The X Factor. Now former bricklayer and salesman Joe Whelan, from Wolverhampton, is to appear at the LG Arena as part of the final arena tour for Jeff Wayne's spectacular musical version of War of the Worlds.

The Martians arrive at the LG on Friday, December 5. Joe features alongside Jason Donovan, Westlife's Brian McFadden, X Factor winner Shayne Ward, West End star Carrie Hope Fletcher, a string orchestra and a hologram of Liam Neeson.

Let's rock around the Christmas tree...

December is when we look to celebrate a great year with colleagues or kick off the festive season with friends in style. At Park Inn by Radisson, our great value Christmas parties, with their great food and floor filling entertainment, will definitely get the celebrations started.

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Christmas Party Night — **£28 per adult**

Christmas Party Night

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Saturday 13th Dec. 2014	£27.99 per adult
Friday 19th Dec. 2014	£27.99 per adult
Saturday 20th Dec. 2014	£27.99 per adult

Note: other dates available upon request subject to group of 10 or more

Menu
Starters
- Leek, potato and watercress soup laced with chive cream
- Country pate with bread & onion chutney
- Prawn & salmon salad served with citrus creme fraiche

Main Course
- Traditional roast turkey served with bacon wrapped chipolatas, sage & onion stuffing, pan gravy and roast potatoes
- Baked cod topped with a herb & breadcrumb crust served with tomato and mascarpone sauce and crushed new potatoes
- Roast butternut squash, leek & red onion tart, glazed with blue cheese & walnuts with crushed new potatoes
- All served with thyme roasted parsnips, carrots and buttered brussel sprouts

Desserts
- Christmas pudding with brandy sauce
- Chocolate fudge cheesecake with vanilla cream
- Glazed lemon tart with forest berry compote
- Coffee and mints

New Year's Eve

It's never to early to book your New year's Eve celebration, after all you don't want to miss out on the party of the year do you?
Our fabulous NYE bash is just the place to dress to impress, enjoy a fabulous party where you can ring out the old and bring in the new.

Price
New Year Couple package (with room suitable for 2 adults) £129 per couple
New Year Family package (with room suitable for 2 adults and 2 children) £192 per family
New Year Dinner and Dance £39 per adult £19 per child

Menu
Starters
- Cream of Carrot & Coriander Soup
Duck & Apricot Terrine with Brioche & Fruit Chutney
Serrano Ham with Melon, Roquette Salad & Balsamic Glaze

Main Course
- Grilled Lamb Rump accompanied with rosemary saute potatoes, baby root vegetables & red wine jus
Salmon en-croute with dill cream sauce, crushed new potatoes & baby root vegetables
Roast beetroot and feta cheese tart with pesto buttered new potatoes and rocket, cherry tomato & red onion salad
Roast butternut squash, leek & red onion tart, glazed with a blue cheese & walnuts with crushed new potatoes

Desserts
- Chocolate & honeycomb cheesecake, vanilla cream & coulis
French lemon tart with raspberry sorbet
Fresh Fruit Salad
Cheese board with grapes, chutney & water biscuits
- Coffee and petit fours

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CHOICE

Aiysha Hart

Atlantis (BBC1, 8.15pm)

Rather like the recent run of Doctor Who, at first glance it may appear that Atlantis is a classic teatime show that has somehow been shoehorned into a post-8pm slot by mistake. However, Sarah Parish, who plays the scheming Pasiphae, recently revealed that the makers knew the second series would be airing at a later time, and took the opportunity to make the new run a little darker. So, consider yourself forewarned as this week Ariadne is formally crowned Queen, but has more than just ruling a battle-scarred city to worry about, especially with Pasiphae still at large. Meanwhile, Jason faces a struggle for his own as he fights for glory on the tournament ground. Jack Donnelly, Aiysha Hart and Mark Addy star.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** James Martin: Home Comforts. **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **12.50** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** Live Snooker: UK Championship. The second round gets under way at the Barbican Centre in York. **2.00** Live International Rugby Union. Wales v South Africa (Kick-off 2.30pm). **4.30** Final Score. **5.25** Celebrity Mastermind. With Tony Livesey, Ava Vidal, Monty Halls and the Rev Richard Coles. (R) **5.55** BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

6.10 Pointless Celebrities. Panellists including Lionel Blair, Wayne Sleep, Karen Barber and Louie Spence join hosts Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman for a dance edition of the general knowledge quiz.

7.00 Strictly Come Dancing. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman present as twinkle-toed couples perform a series of routines on an Around the World theme - all of which come from different parts of the globe. The professionals get things going with a Bollywood-style group routine, before the remaining seven celebrities battle it out on the dance floor, hoping to impress the viewers and judges, whose decision is getting tougher each week. The results are tomorrow at 7.15pm.

8.15 Atlantis. The city remains vulnerable in the aftermath of the battle, so when a stranger offers salvation Ariadne finds him hard to resist. Jason fights for glory on the tournament ground.

9.00 Casualty. Ash is angered by a patient's lifestyle choice, Big Mac treats an old lady who has foiled a robbery and Ethan has a breakthrough.

9.50 The National Lottery Live. Jenni Falconer hosts the Lotto and Thunderball draws.

10.00 BBC News; Weather.

10.20 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League clashes, including Sunderland v Chelsea and West Bromwich Albion v Arsenal; National Lottery Update.

11.50 The Football League Show. Manish Bhasin presents highlights and all the goals from the latest fixtures in the Championship, League One and League Two.

1.10 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.15** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 CBBC. **11.00** The Blue Planet. (R) **12.00** Rick Stein's Far Eastern Odyssey. (R) **1.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.00** Live Snooker: UK Championship. The second round continues at the Barbican Centre in York. **5.30** Restoring England's Heritage.

6.00 Natural World: Jungle Gremlins of Java. (R)

7.00 Flog It! Mark Stacey and Adam Partridge value items in Bangor, north Wales. (R)

8.00 Perry and Croft: Made in Britain. The celebration of comedy writing duo David Croft and Jimmy Perry continues with an examination of how their sitcoms chronicled British people's attitudes to love and sex.

8.30 Dad's Army. Sergeant Wilson inherits a title following the death of an elderly relative and joins the aristocracy – much to Mainwaring's annoyance. (R)

9.00 QI XL. Extended edition. Josh Widdicombe, Aisling Bea, Tony Hawks and Alan Davies attempt to answer Stephen Fry's range of fiendish questions on the topics of love and loveliness.

9.45 Tomorrow's Worlds: The Unearthly History of Science Fiction. Dominic Sandbrook examines sci-fi's obsession with alien invasion, from all-out assault to sinister hidden threats. He explores how it has reflected real-life anxieties – whether they be the challenge to Victorian imperial power in HG Wells's The War of the Worlds, the Cold War paranoia in Invasion of the Body Snatchers or more recent concerns about racism and immigration in 2009 movie District 9. He also celebrates one of the most famous alien invaders of all time – the Dalek. Featuring contributions by Doctor Who showrunner Steven Moffat and former star David Tennant, actor Richard Dreyfuss, Independence Day director Roland Emmerich and special effects supervisors Phil Tippett and Douglas Trumbull.

10.45 Intruders. Jack makes a gruesome discovery in his back garden, while Gary realises how to expose the corruption behind Qui Reverti, but it demands an unthinkable sacrifice.

11.30 Snooker: UK Championship.

12.20 Snooker: UK Championship Extra. **2.20** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.40** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.05** Canimals. (R) **7.10** Canimals. (R) **7.20** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.25** Sooty. (R) **7.35** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50** Matt Hatter Chronicles. **8.15** Horrid Henry. **8.30** The Munch Box. **9.25** Dinner Date. (R) **10.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.15** ITV News; Weather. **11.20** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **12.05** Surprise Surprise. (R) **1.05** Doc Martin. (R) **2.05** Keep It in the Family. (R) **3.10 Film:** Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone. (2001) Fantasy adventure, starring Daniel Radcliffe.

6.00 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.15 ITV News; Weather.

6.30 New You've Been Framed! Comedy from the mind of Harry Hill, inspired by viewers' videos, featuring a squirrel stealing a smartphone, a fox attacking a golfer and the Smurf who falls victim to a toddler.

7.00 The Chase: Celebrity Special. Chat-show host Jonathan Ross, comedienne and writer Katy Brand, Watchdog's Chris Hollins and model Jo Wood take on a trivia expert for charity. Bradley Walsh asks the questions.

8.00 The X Factor. The aspiring pop stars hope to turn another week of rehearsals into a winning performance as they battle for places in next week's semi-final. Judges Simon Cowell, Cheryl Fernandez-Versini, Mel B and Louis Walsh listen out for flat notes as the contestants face their most important performances yet. Will any of them disappoint at this crucial stage of the competition? Dermot O'Leary is the host. The results are tomorrow at 8pm.

9.45 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! Ant and Dec present all the highs and lows from the past 24 hours in the Australian jungle as the campmates spend another day battling bugs and Bushtucker Trials.

10.50 The Jonathan Ross Show. The host chats to James McAvoy, Phillip Schofield, Sarah Millican, Jessica Ennis-Hill and Barry Manilow, who also performs.

11.55 ITV News; Weather.**12.15 Film:** Coogan's Bluff. (1968) **1.50** Jackpot247. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.45** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 Snowman Triathlon. **6.40** Cycling: Revolution Series. **7.40** A Day at the Races. (R) **7.55** The Morning Line. **9.00** Weekend Kitchen. **10.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. **11.55** The Simpsons. (R) **12.25** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. (R) **1.25** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Newbury and Newcastle. **4.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.25** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.00 Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Woolly Mammoth: The Autopsy. The discovery of an extraordinarily well-preserved woolly mammoth in Siberia last year has quickened the pace of one of the most ambitious and controversial projects in science – the cloning of this iconic giant of the Ice Age. When it was dug out of the permafrost, a dark red liquid oozed from the frozen body. Could it be blood? This documentary follows an international team of experts carrying out a historic autopsy on the carcass and gains access to the leading mammoth de-extinction programmes happening now in the US and South Korea. (R)

8.00 Walking Through History: England's Last Battle – West Country. Tony Robinson hikes up from Lyme Regis in Dorset to the Somerset Levels telling the story of the 1685 Monmouth Rebellion, an attempt to overthrow James II. Last in the series.

9.00 Film: The Inbetweeners Movie. (2011) Awkward teenagers Simon, Will, Jay and Neil plan a holiday to the Greek island of Crete after they finish their exams, hoping to experience drink, sex and debauchery beyond their wildest dreams. However, things do not quite work out as planned. Comedy, with Joe Thomas, Simon Bird, James Buckley and Blake Harrison.

11.00 Film: The Sitter. (2011) Premiere. An irresponsible babysitter leads his three charges through a series of dangerous adventures on New York's mean streets. Comedy, starring Jonah Hill.

12.40 Film: Boomerang. (1992) **2.40** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.40** SuperScrimpers. (R) **5.00** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.55** NFL: Rush Zone.

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** Access. **10.40** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **11.40 Film:** Lost at Christmas. (2007) Fact-based drama, starring Dylan Walsh and Jami Gertz. **1.25 Film:** The March Sisters at Christmas. (2012) Premiere. Drama, starring Julie Marie Berman. **3.10 Film:** I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus. (2002) Family comedy, starring Connie Sellecca. **5.00 Film:** A Fairytale Christmas. (2013) Premiere. Romantic drama, starring C Thomas Howell and Haylie Duff.

6.45 5 News Weekend.

6.50 Film: The Bridge at Remagen. (1969) As Allied forces prepare for a major assault on Germany, a small unit of American soldiers is sent to capture a strategically important bridge over the Rhine – but German forces are determined to prevent the Allied advance, and seek to destroy it. Second World War adventure, starring George Segal, Robert Vaughn, Ben Gazzara and Bradford Dillman. Edited for language and violence.

9.00 Film: The Expendables. (2010) A mercenary leads his elite team on a mission to assassinate a South American dictator, only to find their target is merely a pawn and the real power in the country is a rogue CIA agent. Feeling they have been double-crossed, they abandon the operation – but are compelled to return and save a captured rebel. Action thriller, directed by and starring Sylvester Stallone. With Jason Statham and Jet Li.

11.10 Film: War. (2007) An FBI agent is drawn into warfare between Yakuza and Triad gangs as he seeks revenge on the assassin who murdered his partner. Martial arts thriller, with Jet Li.

1.10 SuperCasino. Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.10** Gotham. Gordon informs Essen he plans to arrest Falcone and the mayor, while a killer is sent into police HQ to murder the detective after Fish Mooney discovers Cobblepot is still alive. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. Ann Maurice shows homeowners near Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, how to inject a touch of character into their bland property to make it more appealing. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.15** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 International Rugby Union **8.00** Top Gear **9.00** Sherlock **10.30** Live at the Apollo **11.00** Family Guy **1.35** Some Girls **2.05** Live at the Apollo **2.35** Life Is Toff **3.05** Sweat the Small Stuff **3.35** Fried **4.00** Close

BBC Four

7.00 Ice Age Giants **8.00** Sex and Sensibility: The Allure of Art Nouveau **9.00** Inspector Montalbano **10.40** Imagine: Dame Shirley Bassey: The Girl from Tiger Bay **11.40** Shirley Bassey at the BBC **12.40** Top of the Pops: 1979 **1.15** Sounds of the 70s **1.45** Ice Age Giants **2.45** Sex and Sensibility: The Allure of Art Nouveau **3.45** Close

ITV2

11.30 Film: Free Willy 3: The Rescue (1997) **1.20 Film:** Small Soldiers (1998) **3.30 Film:** Rumor Has It (2005) **5.30** You've Been Framed! **6.00** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! **7.00 Film:** The Perfect Storm (2000) **9.45** The Xtra Factor **10.50** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here Now! **11.50** The X Factor **1.40** The Xtra Factor **2.35** Example: The Hot Desk **2.45** Teleshopping

ITV3

12.50 Film: Columbo: Swan Song (1974) **2.55** A Touch of Frost **4.55** Agatha Christie's Marple **6.55** Rosemary & Thyme **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** Foyle's War **11.00** A Touch of Frost **12.40** Bomb Girls **1.30** World Kitchen **1.55** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

12.45 Live Darts. The Players Championship. **5.00** Cheers **5.30** Storage Wars **7.00** Live Darts. The Players Championship. **11.00 Film:** Green Street (2005) **1.10** River Monsters: Untold Stories **2.15** Black Gold **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

11.00 Melissa & Joey **12.00** How I Met Your Mother **1.00 Film:** Mighty Joe Young (1998) **3.15** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **3.30** Made in Chelsea **4.30** Melissa & Joey **5.30** How I Met Your Mother **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Skyline (2010) **10.50** The Inbetweeners Top 10 Moments **11.55** The Inbetweeners Go Global **1.00** Rude Tube **2.00** The Inbetweeners Top 10 Moments **2.55** How I Met Your Mother

Film4

11.00 Gunman's Walk (1958) **1.00** Fool's Gold (2008) **3.10** Flight of the Phoenix (2004) **5.20** Meet Dave (2008) **7.15** Bride Wars (2009) **9.00** The Taking of Pelham 123 (2009) **11.05** Watchmen (2009) **2.15** Rec 3: Genesis (2012)

CHOICE

Jimmy Carr

Jimmy Carr: Laughing & Joking
(Channel 4, 10pm)

You may be surprised to know that there's a lot more to Jimmy Carr than a silly laugh and borderline offensive humour. Plenty more. Credit where credit is due after all: this man is a comedy genius with writing skills to boot – he's even penned material for Lily Savage, Bo Selecta! and Meet Ricky Gervais before now. However, for those who are more than familiar with Jimmy's work and aren't satisfied with his year-round tours and television efforts in that they're just not enough to satisfy your cravings, you'll no doubt be pleased to see that he's back on our screens tonight as, filmed in November of last year at London's Hammersmith Apollo, the award-winning funnyman performs his eighth live show.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.25** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Fern Britton Meets Donny Osmond. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. With Mark Chapman and the Match of the Day team. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. **2.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **3.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.15** Songs of Praise. **4.50** Life Story. (R) **5.50** BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

6.15 Countryfile. The team reports from Lancashire, where John Craven uncovers a landscape that was once a true spectacle, but is now almost lost to the ravages of time.

7.15 Strictly Come Dancing: The Results. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman reveal which couples are in the dance-off, and there are performances by Andre Rieu with Alfie Boe, and the Lord of the Dance troupe.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce and the experts return to Towneley Hall near Burnley in Lancashire, where items include a collection of cut-throat razors, a mosaic and Lone Ranger memorabilia.

9.00 Remember Me. Care worker Hannah goes to visit Tom in hospital and is shocked to hear he has escaped, so detective Rob Fairholme opens a missing persons investigation. Hannah pleads with him to search in Scarborough, haunted by the old folk songs she found in the pensioner's house, but the detective isn't convinced by her hunch and continues his search closer to home. Visiting Tom's home, he finds the ripped photo of the man as a boy - as well as documents revealing he once had a wife who was killed in tragic circumstances. Meanwhile, the post-mortem on social worker Alison Denning proves inconclusive – but oddly, it does show that the dead woman had water in her lungs.

10.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

10.30 Match of the Day 2. Southampton v Manchester City and Tottenham Hotspur v Everton.

11.30 The Apprentice. The entrepreneurs head to the Royal Bath & West Show. (R)

12.30 Film: Color of Night. (1994) **2.25** Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.30** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.15** Great British Garden Revival. (R) **7.15** Countryfile. (R) **8.15** Glorious Gardens from Above. (R) **9.00** The Football League Show. (R) **10.20** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.50** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **12.20** International Rugby Union. **1.20** Live Snooker: UK Championship. **5.30** Glorious Gardens from Above. (R)

6.15 Flog It! Charlie Ross and Mark Stacey value collectibles in Monmouth, Wales, and Paul Martin explores the countryside that inspired Laura Ashley's designs. (R)

7.00 Secrets of the Castle with Ruth, Peter and Tom. The team explores the art of medieval combat and the construction of a castle's defences, examining the ingenious features 13th-century builders came up with to withstand attacks. (R)

8.00 The Mekong River with Sue Perkins. The comedienne concludes her epic journey along the Southeast Asian river as she follows the Mekong through China to its source in the Himalayas. Last in the series.

9.00 World's Greatest Food Markets. Billingsgate merchant Roger Barton pits himself against traders at New Delhi's Azadpur fruit and vegetable market, which provides food for the whole of India. Last in the series.

10.00 Russell Howard's Good News. The comedian offers his perspective on stories dominating the media, whether on television, online or in print, and he is joined by a guest with an amazing tale to tell. (R)

10.30 The Wrong Mans. Sam and Phil take a wounded Marat to Phil's house, but with MI5 agent Smoke closing in on them, the hapless duo find they have become high-profile fugitives. (R)

11.00 The Wrong Mans. Sam and Phil realise they must put themselves right in the line of fire to expose the plot, save Bracknell, uncover double agents and rescue their loved ones. Last in the series. (R)

11.30 Snooker: UK Championship. Hazel Irvine presents highlights of the evening session from the Barbican Centre in York.

12.20 Snooker: UK Championship Extra. Extended highlights from today's matches. **2.20** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **3.20** Holby City. (R) **4.20** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.40** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.05** Canimals. (R) **7.10** Canimals. (R) **7.20** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.25** Sooty. (R) **7.35** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50** Ultimate Spider-Man. **8.15** Horrid Henry. **8.30** Big Time Rush. **9.00** The Aquabats! Super Show! (R) **9.25** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.25** ITV News; Weather. **11.35 Film:** Carry On Again Doctor. (1969) **1.20** The Unforgettable Pat Phoenix. (R) **1.55** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **2.55** The X Factor. (R) **4.40** Midsomer Murders. (R)

6.30 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.45 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 Keep It in the Family. With this year's series of I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! well under way, six former residents of the jungle – Katie Price, Helen Flanagan, Joe Pasquale, Joe Swash, Kim Woodburn and Sinitta – provide assistance as two families go head to head in a series of fun-filled rounds. The stars each hold the clue to a big prize, from new cars to holidays in the sun, and face being sent through a trapdoor as the contestants decide whether to swap, drop or keep it in the family. Bradley Walsh hosts. Last in the series.

8.00 The X Factor Results. The remaining contestants wait with bated breath as Dermot O'Leary reveals who is safe and which acts will be battling it out in the sing-off for a place in next week's semi-final.

9.00 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! Ant and Dec interview today's eliminated contestant about their time in the camp, their jungle likes and dislikes, and who they are tipping to win. But before that, the Geordie duo present the usual round-up of highlights from the past 24 hours as the celebrities struggle through another day of hardship in the bug-infested Australian wilderness.

10.05 ITV News; Weather.

10.20 The Cube. (R)

11.20 Premiership Rugby Union. Highlights of the latest top-flight fixtures.

12.10 The Store. **2.30** Motorsport UK. **3.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **4.05** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.20 NFL: The American Football Show. (R) **7.15** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.40** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **8.55** Jamie's Comfort Food. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **1.35** The Big Bang Theory. **2.05** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.35** The Simpsons. (R) **3.05** The Simpsons. (R) **3.35 Film:** Inkheart. (2008) Fantasy adventure, starring Brendan Fraser. **5.45 Film:** Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs. (2009) Animated adventure sequel, with the voice of John Leguizamo.

7.30 Channel 4 News.

8.00 The Great Wall of China: The Hidden Story – Secret History. With access to the first nationwide survey and state-of-the-art drones mapping the Great Wall of China, this documentary offers new evidence that reveals its extraordinary magnitude, rewrites its millennia-long history and decodes its complex signals system. Using cutting-edge chemistry, the programme also finds out what has kept the wall standing for so long – a simple cooking ingredient found in kitchens across the world.

9.00 Homeland. As the CIA thriller continues, Carrie organises a last-ditch operation, while Lockhart and Martha do their utmost to stall Inter-Services Intelligence. Claire Danes, Mandy Patinkin, Tracy Letts and Laila Robins star.

10.00 Jimmy Carr: Laughing & Joking. Stand-up comedy with the host of 8 Out of 10 Cats, recorded at London's Hammersmith Apollo in November last year, featuring his familiar brand of near-the-knuckle humour.

11.05 Alan Carr: Chatty Man. Comedian and actor Russell Brand talks about his new book Revolution, and French DJ superstar David Guetta discusses his latest single. With music from Kiesza. (R)

12.05 Confessions of a Doctor. Eight doctors lift the lid on their working lives in the consulting room. (R) **1.05** According to Jim. (R) **1.25** American Football Live. Kansas City Chiefs v Denver Broncos (Kick-off 1.30am). Coverage of the week 13 fixture from Arrowhead Stadium, where the AFC West rivals face each other. **4.45** Snowman Triathlon. Action from Snowdonia National Park. (R) **5.10** Win It Cook It. (R) **5.35** Countdown. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **6.35** Seaside Antics. **6.40** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.05** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.25** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.35** Paw Patrol. **7.50** Pip Ahoy! (R) **8.00** Little Princess. (R) **8.10** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.25** Wanda and the Alien. **8.35** Zack and Quack. **8.50** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.05** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.20** LazyTown. (R) **9.50** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.25** Access. (R) **10.30** Police Interceptors. (R) **11.25** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.25** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.30 Film:** Noel. (2004) Drama, starring Susan Sarandon. **3.20 Film:** Matchmaker Santa. (2012) Romantic comedy, with Lacey Chabert and Adam Mayfield. **5.00 Film:** Annie Claus Is Coming to Town. (2011) Christmas fantasy, starring Maria Thayer.

6.45 5 News Weekend.

6.50 Film: Planet of the Apes. (2001) An astronaut crash-lands on a strange planet and is captured and enslaved by the ruling race of highly intelligent apes. Luckily, he is helped by a sympathetic chimpanzee – but then discovers a shocking secret. Remake of the 1960s sci-fi adventure, directed by Tim Burton and starring Mark Wahlberg, Helena Bonham Carter and Tim Roth, and featuring a cameo appearance from the original film's star Charlton Heston. Edited for language.

9.00 Film: The Expendables 2. (2012) Premiere. Mercenary leader Barney Ross is recruited by the CIA to recover a top-secret package, only to come to blows with a rival band of hired guns. Barney swears revenge when the other faction kill his protege, and leads his men on a mission to stop their enemies taking over a former Soviet nuclear facility. Action thriller sequel, starring Sylvester Stallone.

11.05 Film: Universal Soldier. (1992) Two dead soldiers reanimated in a military experiment recognise each other as old enemies and pursue their vendettas. Sci-fi thriller, with Jean-Claude Van Damme and Dolph Lundgren.

1.05 SuperCasino. **3.10** The Gadget Show. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.20** Make It Big. (R) **5.15** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 Great TV Mistakes **8.00** Doctor Who **9.00** Edinburgh Comedy Fest Live 2012 **10.00** Family Guy **10.45** American Dad! **11.30** Some Girls **12.00** Life Is Toff **12.30** Edinburgh Comedy Fest Live 2012 **1.30** Sweat the Small Stuff **2.00** The Revolution Will Be Televised

BBC Four

7.00 The Great War **7.40** Britain's Wild Places **8.00** The Day of the Triffids **9.00** Blondie: One Way or Another **10.10 Film:** Ca$h (2008) **11.50** Pink Floyd: Wish You Were Here **12.50** Play it Loud: The Story of the Marshall Amp **1.50** Great Guitar Riffs at the BBC

ITV2

11.30 The X Factor **1.25** The Xtra Factor **2.25** Kiesza: The Hot Desk **2.40 Film:** Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (2010) **4.50** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! **5.50 Film:** She's the Man (2006) **8.00** Scorpion **9.00** The Xtra Factor **10.05** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here Now! **11.05** Educating Joey Essex: Space Cadet **12.05** Two and a Half Men **1.00** Dads **1.25** Fake Reaction **2.00** The Vampire Diaries **2.45** Kiesza: The Hot Desk

ITV3

11.20 A Touch of Frost **1.35 Film:** Columbo: Negative Reaction (1974) **3.40 Film:** The Nun's Story (1959) **6.45** Inspector Morse **9.00** Lewis **11.00** Wycliffe **12.10 Film:** The Elephant Man (1980) **2.20** Judge Judy **3.05** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.40** Emmerdale

ITV4

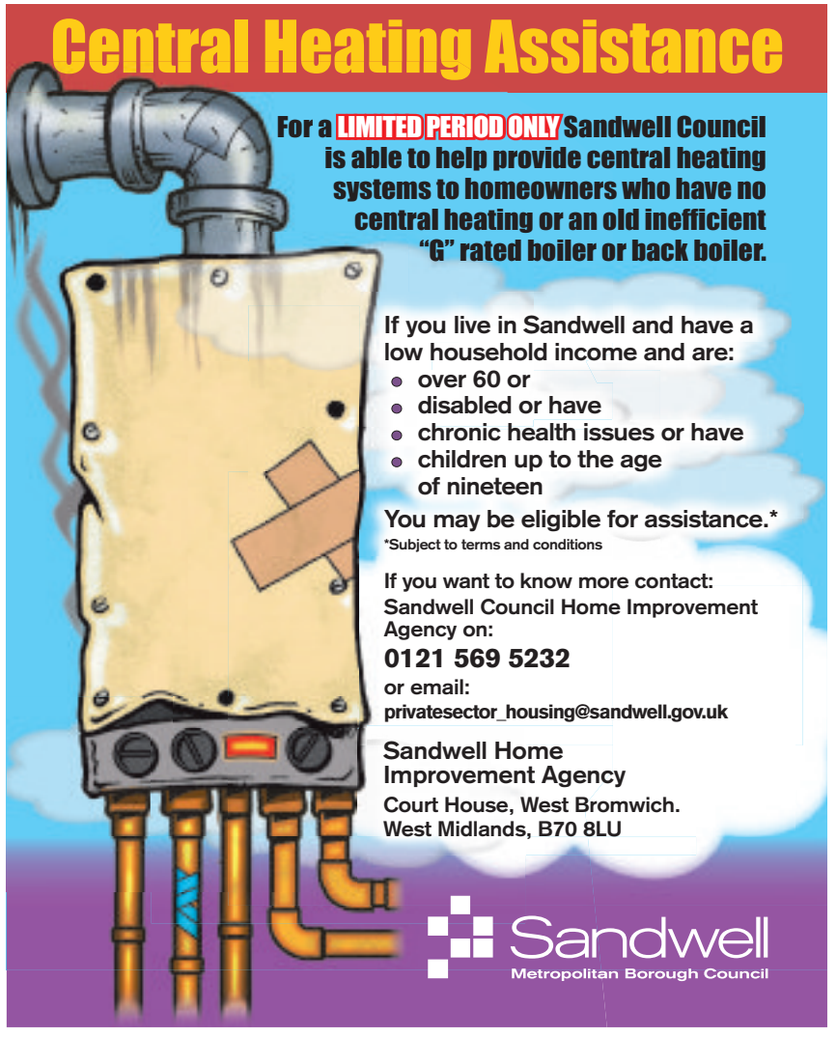
12.45 Live Darts. **5.00** Alias Smith and Jones **6.00** Cheers **6.35** World of Sport: Dare Devils **6.45** Live Darts. The Players Championship. **11.00 Film:** Rambo: First Blood Part II (1985) **1.00** Minder **2.00** Jean-Claude Van Damme: Behind Closed Doors **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

12.30 Made in Chelsea **1.30** How I Met Your Mother **2.00 Film:** Chalet Girl (2011) **3.55** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **4.00** Melissa & Joey **5.30** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.30** The Inbetweeners: Their Favourite Episodes **11.45** The Inbetweeners Go Global **12.50** Drifters **1.25** Bad Robots **1.55** New Girl **2.45** Rules of Engagement

Film4

11.00 Broken Lance (1954) **1.00** Bride and Prejudice (2004) **3.15** Ramona and Beezus (2010) **5.20** Scrooged (1988) **7.15** Airplane! (1980) **9.00** The Cold Light of Day (2012) **10.55** Premonition (2007) **12.50** A Story of Children and Film (2013) **3.05** Close



FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
The National Tree, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A loving father plants a tree the day his son is born. Years later, when the boy is a teenager, it is selected to be the national Christmas tree, so father and son embark on a life-changing journey across the country to deliver it for replanting at the White House. Drama, starring Andrew McCarthy and Evan Williams. (2009)

TUESDAY
Public Enemies, ITV, 10.40pm
Fact-based crime drama following the last years of John Dillinger, whose run of bank robberies and daring prison escapes in the 1930s make him both America's most wanted criminal and a hero to a public struggling through the Depression. His career is soon to be cut short by the birth of the FBI, which assigns its most celebrated agent to bring him to justice. Directed by Michael Mann and starring Johnny Depp, Christian Bale and Marion Cotillard. (2009)

We Own the Night, Friday, ITV, 11.15pm

WEDNESDAY
The 13th Warrior, BBC1, 12.10am
A disgraced nobleman exiled from his Baghdad home joins forces with Norse warriors at the close of the first millennium, and ends up battling seemingly invincible attackers during an epic journey. Action adventure adapted from the novel Eaters of the Dead by Michael Crichton, starring Antonio Banderas, Diane Venora, Dennis Storhi, Vladimir Kulich and Omar Sharif. (1999)

THURSDAY
Die Another Day, ITV, 10.40pm
James Bond is suspended from duty after being taken hostage in North Korea, but goes against orders to track down those who betrayed him. During the pursuit of the terrorist he was investigating before his capture, he discovers a connection with a British billionaire who has constructed a devastating orbital weapon. Spy adventure, starring Pierce Brosnan. (2002)

FRIDAY
We Own the Night, ITV, 11.15pm
The manager of a New York nightclub is caught between two worlds – while his brother and father are both highly respected police officers, most of his clientele are gangsters. Despite his best efforts not to get involved, he is forced to choose sides when gang violence escalates and his sibling is targeted by a hitman. Crime drama, starring Joaquin Phoenix, Mark Wahlberg and Robert Duvall. (2007)

PICK OF THE WEEK

New series proves to be a breeze for Richard

Fashion may come and go, but one constant in the UK is our obsession with the weather. Maybe it's the fact that as an island so small we don't generate our own weather systems but have to make do with cast-offs from other countries.

In a new series, Richard Hammond will be revealing the hidden secrets at the heart of some of the world's most extreme weather, experiencing extraordinary phenomena first-hand.

Okay, some of the dialogue may be a little redundant, such as "Wherever you live on the planet, weather shapes your world."

That aside, Hammond will be 'stripping weather back to its basics,' and in this wind-centric opener he explains how wind begins.

He kicks things off with another spot of slightly awkward dialogue: "There is a powerful, invisible force that moves around us, almost unnoticed…"

Hmmm. While the script could have done with more levity in the Top Gear vein, WWWRH excels in the visuals department, whether it's glorious high definition cloudscapes or obligatory shots of devastation.

There are some scenes which look like a mash up of Twister and The Dark Knight as Hammond attempts to measure the speed of a tornado.

His journey starts in New Hampshire, USA.

You might think of the region as a world of sunshine, russet leaves in the autumn and moneyed Americans enjoying expensive past times.

However, the state can also look like something from the Arctic as Hammond discovers when he braves temperatures of -45C on top of Mount Washington.

On April 12, 1934, the local weather station measured one of the fastest wind speeds ever recorded on land: 231mph.

Remarkably, winds in the area hit hurricane force more than 100 days in the year.

Going outside is not advisable unless you're covered from head to toe in well insulated protective gear. And don't forget your goggles, unless you want frozen eyeballs.

Given the fact a light wind on your face measures around 5mph; 15mph is enough to turn an umbrella inside out; 45mph can wreck a garden fence, and 55mph can bring a shed down, the sight of Hammond in 65 to 85mph winds is enough to make you put an extra bar on the fire.

A good job there's subtitles as our host struggles to get his words out. Just a pity he doesn't tie his hat on.

Later, there's an experiment to create a fire whirlwind, and a tense moment when it looks like a pricey camera may have been lost in the vertical inferno.

Clearly a glutton for punishment, Richard decides to stand in the middle of a man-made tornado at the 'WindEEE' Research Institute in Canada. It's the only place on Earth which can duplicate the dynamics of a tornado.

Little wonder Hammond gets goosebumps, and not just because he's a bit chilly.

If this leaves you hungry for more, don't miss next week's edition when 'Hamster' attempts to capture a cloud in the hope of seeing how much it weighs. Yes, really.

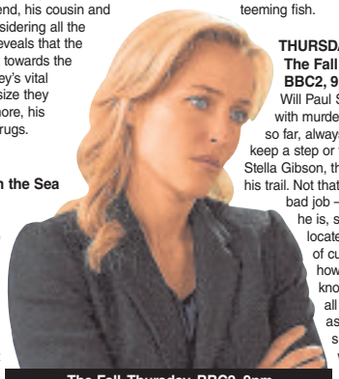
Wild Weather with Richard Hammond, Monday, BBC1, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
The British Property Boom
Channel 4, 8pm
House prices have been rising at record speeds around the UK, and naturally that has far-reaching effects for many of us. This week's show investigates the impact on buyers and sellers, with first-time buyers such as Dionne used as an example of how hard it can be to get on the property ladder. She faces having to ask her retired mother, Denise, to sell the family home to stand a chance of buying her own home. We also meet Barbara, a Hackney resident who has been priced out of the area where she was born. Plus, there's a look at some of the overseas buyers purchasing investment flats in the capital that could otherwise have been snapped up by locals. And if you're wondering what the smallest house on the market in London will cost, then brace yourselves. A property measuring just six feet wide is on the market for a whopping £235,000.

TUESDAY
Autopsy: The Last Hours of Elvis Presley
Channel 5, 9pm
Dr Richard Shepherd has been linked to some of the most iconic celebrities in history – it's just a shame that none of them are alive to enjoy his company. The forensic pathologist is now famous for his in-depth televised autopsies in which he analyses the untimely deaths of famous folk notorious for their often self-inflicted ill health. Tonight, as the title suggests, he kicks of this new series by focusing on Elvis Presley. Robert picks through the facts surrounding the singer's demise at his Memphis home Graceland in August 1977, using accounts from his best friend, his cousin and his private nurse, as well as considering all the medical facts. The programme reveals that the post-mortem report showed that towards the end of his life, nearly all of Presley's vital organs were almost double the size they should have been, and what's more, his system was full of prescription drugs.

WEDNESDAY
Living on the Edge: Blood in the Sea
Channel 5, 7pm
New series. Anthropologist and adventurer Chris Terrill travels to the world's most extreme environments to find out how and why people live in the grip of nature at its harshest. In the first edition, he heads to Mauritania to spend time with fishermen who work the rich but dangerous waters off the north-west coast of Africa. Travelling from Nouadhibou in the north to the capital Nouakchott in the south, Chris and his interpreter Ahmed Taleb witness the sight of a thousand boats fighting to get through the violent surf as it breaks on to the beaches and also discover a secret paradise where the desert meets the sea and millions of birds feed on the teeming fish.


The Fall, Thursday, BBC2, 9pm

THURSDAY
The Fall
BBC2, 9pm
Will Paul Spector get away with murder? He has done so far, always managing to keep a step or two ahead of Stella Gibson, the detective on his trail. Not that she's doing a bad job – she knows who he is, she just can't locate this slipperiest of customers. He, however, seems to know where she is all the time – and as a result, Gibson suspects he's witnessed her confrontation with Burns in her hotel room. But how will Burns react when she tells him? As if the idea of Spector keeping tabs on her isn't disturbing enough, she then realises he's been visiting one of his surviving victims in hospital – but this fact allows her to finally set up a surveillance operation on him. But the need to find the evidence that will bring about Spector's arrest intensifies when a body matching the description of Rose Stagg is discovered.

FRIDAY
The Martin Lewis Money Show
ITV, 8pm
For a man who's become synonymous with great money saving ideas, you'd think Martin Lewis would be on a par with some of the cash-hungry wannabes in The Apprentice, but not a bit of it. "I certainly don't preach about how to make money; that's not really my thing at all, or my passion to be honest," he explains. "I still don't consider myself to be an entrepreneur. I'm somebody who set up a website and I consider myself to be a journalist and consumer campaigner." This week, Martin helps customers reclaim lost cash after switching energy suppliers. He also reveals how companies don't have to give this money back unless they are asked. Plus, the eponymous host reveals how to buy high-street fashion abroad, take a budget flight back to the UK and still make a saving.

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BRAIN GYM No.301

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.

24	1	16	26	■	9	19	13	20	9	14	1	22
9	■	9	■	■	1	■	■	15	■	15	■	26
22	■	15	19	1	22	5	14	6	■	6	■	6
21	12	18	■	■	■	20	■	■	19	9	22	6
4	■	23	■	14	1	1	22	■	■	20	■	23
■	18	26	15	12	■	6	■	14	9	26	5	26
■	■	■	■	3	■	26	■	1	■	■	■	■
11	9	23	3	17	■	14	■	10	23	15	8	■
26	■	1	■	■	15	2	12	15	■	18	■	10
13	20	15	4	■	■	12	■	■	■	25	15	20 R
17	■	16	■	14	13	26	3	7	23	26	■	15 A
4	■	26	■	9	■	■	12	■	■	3	■	12
20	26	14	1	20	6	26	21	■	14	6	12	21

1	14
2	15 A
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20 R
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1 S	2 Y	3 D	4 M	5 V	6 C	7 R	8 H	9 K	10 Q	11 F	12 U	13 N
14 E	15 A	16 T	17 X	18 O	19 G	20 B	21 P	22 J	23 Z	24 W	25 L	26 I

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

7. Very busy describing 22 Across perhaps (2,4,2,5)
8. An ironclad excuse for not buying luxuries (8)
9. They're neat! (4)
10. Take off a garment I'd first put on back-to-front (6)
12. Smart evergreen (6)
14. Such games are not openly played (6)
16. Ring again to cancel (6)
18. It has caused many deaths in Vietnam (4)
20. Pains grip sick Greek hero (8)
22. It was frightful, as a rule! (5,2,6)

Down

1. Perform the state a monetary service (8)
2. It's entertainment value is questionable (6)
3. Become engaged in some sharp practice (4)
4. He works so that others may play (8)
5. Disturbance of increasing volume (6)
6. On which many initial declarations of love have been made (4)
11. He fights in the ring (8)
13. Does she preach no involvement? (8)
15. Royal house that is divided internally, naturally (6)
17. Comrade has an attempt not worth considering (6)
19. Not now the capital of Norway (4)
21. Has old fashioned style (4)

■	1	■	2	■	3	■	4	■	5	■	6	■
7												
■		■		■		■		■		■		■
8								■	9			
■		■		■	■	■		■		■	■	■
10					11		12				13	
■		■	■	■				■	■	■		■
14			15				16		17			
■	■	■		■		■	■	■		■		■
18	19			■	20		21					
■		■		■		■		■		■		■
22												
■		■		■		■		■		■		■

Quick Clues:

Across

7. Speedily (13)
8. Lees (8)
9. Cistern (4)
10. Crash (4-2)
12. Drub (6)
14. Muscular (6)
16. Summary (6)
18. Snatch (4)
20. Innate (8)
22. Stupidity (13)

Down

1. Outside (8)
2. Yearn for (6)
3. Dreadful (4)
4. Despot (8)
5. Assemble (6)
6. Scheme (4)
11. Bodily (8)
13. Monotony (8)
15. Move unsteadily (6)
17. Powerful (6)
19. Space (4)
21. Conceal (4)

Sudoku

		9	5					8
2				7	9	3	5	
				8				7
	2		8				6	
9		8	7		3	2		
	4				1		7	
		3		9			1	
	5	6	2					9
1				5	7	4		

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

6	3	4	5	8	1	2	9	7
5	8	7	2	3	9	4	1	6
2	1	9	6	4	7	5	8	3
7	5	3	4	1	8	9	6	2
1	9	2	3	7	6	8	4	5
8	4	6	9	2	5	7	3	1
3	2	8	1	5	4	6	7	9
9	7	5	8	6	3	1	2	4
4	6	1	7	9	2	3	5	8

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Isis; 8 Conviction; 9 Drawback; 10 Magi; 12 Befell; 14 Please; 15 Dimple; 17 Theory; 18 Ages; 19 Bulletin; 21 Oppressors; 22 Eats. Down: 2 Shortening; 3 Scow; 4 On call; 5 Pick up; 6 Stampede; 7 Anti; 11 Go straight; 13 Exposure; 16 Emboss; 17 Tallow; 18 Atom; 20 Ease. QUICK - Across: 1 Seem; 8 Answer back; 9 Babyhood; 10 Camp; 12 Cajole; 14 Deride; 15 Billow; 17 Modern; 18 Snug; 19 Contrite; 21 Counteract; 22 Aunt. Down: 2 Excavation; 3 Many; 4 Ashore; 5 Needed; 6 Obscured; 7 Skip; 11 Moderation; 13 Obliging; 16 Wicked; 17 Manual; 18 Sick; 20 Rota.

Quiz

1. Name the famous showbiz parents of entertainer Liza Minnelli.
2. In which city was Christopher Columbus born?
3. Of which element is diamond a form?
4. What was the name of Donald Campbell's record-breaking boats and cars?
5. Of which ocean does the Kara Sea form a part?
6. What was the first nuclear-powered submarine?
7. Who, in 1956, was the first European Footballer of the Year?
8. Which musical instrument evolved from the sackbut?
9. To which family of birds do canaries and siskins belong?
10. Who was the first English actor to be knighted?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Collie; 2 Colette; 3 Scottish; 4 Storm petrel; 5 Inner Hebrides; 6 Lulu; 7 Munich; 8 George II; 9 Gary Mabbutt; 10 William Randolph Hearst.

Niner: POLICEMAN

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

4823 gives a wild animal,
7851239 gives another wild animal,
26389278 gives a dog.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors. Vehicles shown for illustrative purposes only, and may be fitted with optional equipment. Brilliant paint, metallic or pearlescent two-coat paint and parking distance sensors included with each lease. Tri-coat premium paint available at extra cost. The facilities offered are for the hire (bailment) of goods. The Motability Contract Hire Scheme is administered by Motability Operations Limited (Registered Company No. 1373876), City Gate House, 22 Southwark Bridge Road, London, SE1 9HB. Offer valid 1 October – 31 December 2014. To qualify you must be in receipt of the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance, the Enhanced Rate Mobility Component of the Personal Independence Payment, the War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement or the Armed Forces Independence Payment which will be taken in lieu of the four weekly rental. Full written details, including terms and conditions, are available on request. All information correct at time of going to press.

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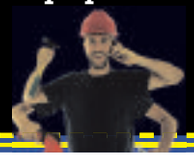

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More properties wanted!

PROPERTY

Refitted bathroom at semi with £99,950 tag

ATTRACTIVELY presented throughout, this two-bedroomed semi in Barnfield Road, Wolverhampton includes a re-fitted bathroom.

With gas central heating and majority double glazing it is for sale through DB Roberts & Partners at £99,950 and comes with no chain.

It has a through lounge, breakfast kitchen, utility and two bedrooms and bathroom.

Contact DB Roberts & Partners on 01902 427257 or visit www.dbroberts.co.uk

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Unless previously sold, let or withdrawn

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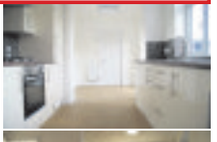
Oldbury

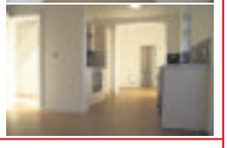
OPEN TO VIEW
SAT 29th NOV
9.30am to 10.30am

52 Holly Road
* Semi detached house
* Recently modernised
* Kitchen/dining room
* Three bedrooms
* Box room/study
* Small garage
* No upward chain EPC=D
£179,999

Oldbury

OPEN TO VIEW
SAT 29th NOV
11am to 12noon





264 Pound Road
* Semi detached house
* Recently re-planned and modernised
* Re-fitted kitchen with breakfast area
* Two reception rooms
* Three bedrooms
* Re-fitted bathroom
* W.C/Utility
* Extensive rear garden
* Garage EPC=tbc
Offers in the region of £199,950

Oldbury

OPEN TO VIEW
SAT 29th NOV
11am to 12noon

14 Hereford Road
* Ideal first purchase
* Tastefully presented accommodation
* Fitted kitchen/dining room
* Through lounge
* Three bedrooms * Bathroom
* Enclosed gardens
* Gas boiler heating radiators
* Internal inspection recommended EPC = C
Offers in the region of £119,950

Halesowen

Manor Abbey Road
* NO UPWARD CHAIN
* Four bedrooms
* Re-fitted kitchen/dining room with fitted appliances * Through living room
* Re-fitted bathroom
* Ground floor shower room/wet room with WC
* Good sized rear garden
* Small garage (suitable for storage only) EPC=D
Offers in the region of £275,000

Quinton

Mayswood Grove
* Semi-detached house
* 3 bedrooms and bathroom
* Through living room and kitchen
* Utility room
* Store rooms with potential to provide extra living accommodation
* Gas boiler heating radiators
* Garden * Garage * Carport EPC=D
Offers in the region of £140,000

Halesowen

Manor Abbey Road
* Traditional style extended semi detached house
* Some general moernisation and improvement required
* Three bedrooms and bathroom
* Extended kitchen and lounge
* Separate dining room, utility and fitted cloakroom * Enclosed garden, double glazed windows, gas boiler heating radiators EPC=D
Offers in the region of £229,950

Halesowen

New John Street
* Brand new semi-detached bungalow
* Fitted kitchen with oven and hob
* 2 Bedrooms, shower room
* Lounge with French doors to gardens
* Double Glazed windows, gas boiler heating radiators
* Off road parking for two vehicles
* Completion anticipated March/April 2015 EPC=C
£135,000

Halesowen

Manor Lane
* Well presented traditional style semi detached house
* Three bedrooms
* Two reception rooms
* Re-fitted well appointed bathroom
* Lovely rear garden
* Views over 'Leasowes'
* NO UPWARD CHAIN EPC=D
Offers in the region of £249,950

Halesowen

Belgrave Road
* Mid terraced property
* Breakfast kitchen
* Three Bedrooms
* Garage
* EPC=C

Offers in the region of £137,950

Halesowen

NEARING COMPLETION!

Plot 2, The Paddock
Hurst Green Road
* Brand new link detached bungalow
* Kitchen with host of appliances
* Two bedrooms
* Master bedroom with ensuite
* Fitted carpets
* EPC=C

£180,000

West Bromwich

66 Margaret Street
* End-terraced house
* 2 double bedrooms
* 2 reception rooms
* Gas central heating
* Great location; affordable rent
* EPC=D
Monthly rent of £475+ application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £100 (inc VAT) each additional tenant.
Deposit required 6 weeks rent.

Rowley Regis

35 Duke Street
* semi detched house * 2 bedrooms
* UPVC doublazing to windows
* gas boiler/radiator heating system
* laminate floors to lounge and dining room
* Available now for 6 month tenancy
* EPC=E
Monthly rent of £475+ application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £100 (inc VAT) each additional tenant.
Deposit required 6 weeks rent.

Halesowen

27 Windmill Hill
* Contemporary styled modern house
* LOCATED ON MAIN BUS ROUTE
* 2 Bedrooms
* Fitted kitchen with apliances
* Dressing room & en-suite
* GAS CH & DG Windows
* EPC=C
Monthly rent of £525+ application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £100 (inc VAT) each additional tenant.
Deposit required 6 weeks rent.

Oldbury

115 Pottery Road
* Three Bedroom Semi-detached House
* Living Room Forming Lounge & Dining Area * Kitchen with oven, hob, extract, fridge & washing machine * Bathroom with Shower & Ensuite * Gas CH & DG windows * Enclosed Gardens * Off Road Parking * EPC=B * Available now!
Monthly rent of £675+ application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £100 (inc VAT) each additional tenant.
Deposit required 6 weeks rent.

Rowley Regis

17 Allsops Close
* End-terraced house
* One double bedroom with walk-in wardrobe * Kitchen with oven, hob & hood * Bathroom with shower over bath
* 1 Car-parking space
* Attractive enclosed rear garden
* DGW & Electric heating
* Available December 2014 * EPC = D
Monthly rent of £395+ application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £100 (inc VAT) each additional tenant.
Deposit required 6 weeks rent.

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Offers Around £184,950

Abbey Road, BEARWOOD,

●Well maintained semi detached ●Two Reception Rooms ●Fitted Kitchen ●Three Bedrooms ●Family Bathroom ●Driveway ●Great Location with views overlooking Warley Woods ●Keenly Priced!

Offers Around £169,950

Smith Close, SMETHWICK,

● Early Viewing Highly Recommended! ● Immaculate Family Home ● Reception Room ● Re-Fitted Kitchen/Diner ● Conservatory ● Three Bedrooms ● Re-Fitted Family Bathroom ● Driveway

Offers Around £149,950

Weston Road, BEARWOOD,

● Mid Terrace Property ● Two Reception Rooms ● Fitted Kitchen ● Utility Area ● Cloakroom ● Two Bedrooms ● Re-Fitted Bathroom ● Loft Room ● Ideal First Time Purchase ● Viewing Recommended

Offers Around £149,950

King Edwards Road, BIRMINGHAM,

● Town House ● Hallway ● Cloakroom ● Utility Room ● Kitchen/Diner ● Reception Room ● Three Bedrooms ● Re-Fitted Bathroom ● No Upward Chain

Offers Around £125,000

Merrivale Road, BEARWOOD,

● Well Maintained Mid Terrace ● Two Reception Rooms ● Re-Fitted Kitchen ● Two Bedrooms ● Re-Fitted Upstairs Bathroom ● Ideal First Time Purchase ● Viewing Recommended!

Offers Around £124,950

Broadmoor Avenue, SMETHWICK,

● Spacious Semi Detached ● Through Lounge ● Extended Kitchen ● Three Bedrooms ● Family Bathroom ● Ideal First Time Purchase

Offers Around £114,950

The Uplands, SMETHWICK,

● Well Maintained Terrace ● Through Lounge ● Re-Fitted Extended Kitchen ● Cloakroom ● Two Bedrooms ● Upstairs Bathroom ● Ideal First Time Purchase ● Viewing Highly Recommended

Offers Around £105,995

Slatch House Road, SMETHWICK,

● End Town House ● Reception Room ● Kitchen/Diner ● Three Bedrooms ● Upstairs Bathroom ● Ideal Investment Opportunity

Offers Around £99,950

Gilbert Road, SMETHWICK,

● Mid Terrace ● Reception Room ● Kitchen/Diner ● Bathroom with walk-in shower ● Two bedrooms ● Ideal First Purchase ● Viewing Recommended

Offers Around £97,000

Sydenham Road, SMETHWICK,

● Mid Terrace Property ● Two Reception Rooms ● Fitted Kitchen ● Ground Floor Bathroom ● Three Bedrooms ● Rear Garden ● Ideal Investment or First Time Purchase ● Keenly Priced!

Offers Around £87,500

Woodland Street, SMETHWICK,

● Mid Terrace Property ● Hallway ● Two Reception Rooms ● Kitchen ● Two Bedrooms ● Upstairs Bathroom ● Ideal First Time Purchase/Investment

Offers Around £94,950

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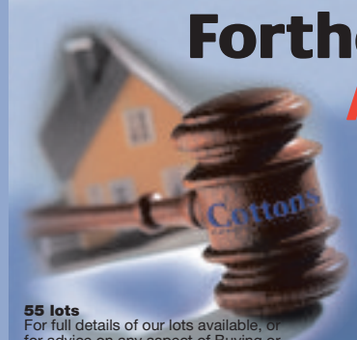

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Perry Hill Road, Oldbury
Unique Opportunity To Acquire This Well Presented Traditional Style Semi, Catchment Area For Good Local Schools. EPC - C
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Spacious Lounge
- Separate Dining Room
- Kitchen, Utility Room With W/C
- Three Good Sized Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Gardens, Off Road Parking & Rear Garage

Offers In The Region Of £189,995

NEW

Pumphouse Way, Oldbury
Spacious Modern End Terrace, situated within walking distance to Local Amenities, Local Schools and easy access to M5/M6 Motorways. EPC-C
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Spacious Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Downstairs W.C.
- Three Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Driveway and Rear Garden

Offers In The Region Of £134,950

NEW

Fairway Road, Oldbury
Most Charming Well Presented Traditional Style End Terrace, Situated In This Popular Residential Location. EPC - D
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing (where specified)
- Lounge, Separate Dining Room
- Kitchen
- Three Good Sized Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom
- Driveway Providing Off Road Parking
- Rear Garden, No Chain

Offers In The Region Of £122,500

NEW

Sabell Road, Smethwick
Most Deceptively Spacious Traditional Style Terrace, In Need Of Some Updating However Offering Excellent Potential. EPC - E
- Double Glazing
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen
- Downstairs Shower Room
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Rear Garden
- No Upward Chain Involved
- Ideal First Time Purchase

Offers In The Region Of £85,000

NEW PRICE

Kingsway, Oldbury
Most Attractive Deceptively Spacious Modern Style Four Bedroomed Semi, Walking Distance To Local Amenities & Good Local Schools, NO UPWARD CHAIN INVOLVED. EPC - C
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Spacious Through Lounge/Dining Area
- Fitted Kitchen, Utility Area
- Downstairs W/C
- Four Bedrooms
- En-Suite, Family Bathroom
- Gardens, Garage With Driveway

Offers In The Region Of £194,995

NEW PRICE

Dibble Road, Smethwick
Tastefully Modernised Spacious Traditional Style Terrace, Easy Access To Smethwick High Street, NO UPWARD CHAIN EPC - D
- Recently Re-Roofed
- Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing
- Spacious Lounge
- Separate Dining Room
- Re-Fitted Kitchen
- Re-Fitted Downstairs Shower Room
- Three Double Bedrooms
- Excellent First Time Purchase

Offers In The Region Of £109,995

Castle Road West, Oldbury
Charming Well Presented Extended Traditional Style Detached, Walking Distance To All Local Amenities & Good Local Schools, Viewing Recommended. EPC - E
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Lounge, Fitted Kitchen
- Extended Sitting Room
- Three Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Brick Built Gym/Play Room/Office
- Gardens & Driveway

Offers In The Region Of £190,000

Stanley Road, Oldbury
Well Presented Traditional Style Three Bedroomed Extended Semi, Easy Access To Local Amenities, Good Local Schools, No Upward Chain. EPC - E
- Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing
- Two Reception Rooms
- Extended Dining Area
- Extended Kitchen With Breakfast Area
- Three Bedrooms, Attic/Loft Room
- Bathroom, Separate WC
- Garage/Store Room With Driveway
- No Upward Chain Involved

Offers In The Region Of £189,950

Leslie Rise, Tividale
Well Presented & Deceptively Spacious Extended Semi, Cul-De-Sac Location, Ideal First Time Purchase, NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC - D
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Spacious Through Lounge/Dining Area
- Extended Kitchen
- Three Good Sized Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Gardens To Front & Rear
- Viewing Essential

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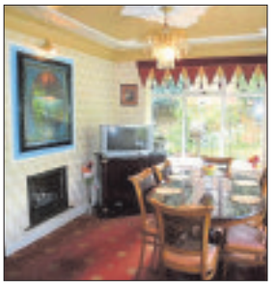
PROPERTY

Deceptively spacious five-bed dormer home

A DECEPTIVELY spacious five-bedroomed detached dormer bungalow of distinction in Sutton Road, Walsall lies in a sought after area.

It is for sale through Fraser Wood at £489,950.

The house features an entrance hall, a front lounge, a rear dining/sitting/kitchen and lobby off, ground floor bedroom ones, a further ground floor bedroom and a ground floor shower room, two first floor bedrooms and a bathroom, a garage with bedroom five behind it. For further information contact Fraser Wood on 01922 627686 or visit www.fraser-wood.co.uk



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Guide: £78,000-£82,000

270 Tat Bank Road, Oldbury
2 Bedroom Mid Terraced Property
Guide: £68,000-£72,000

15 Brett Street, West Bromwich
3 Bedroom Semi Detached Property
Guide: £49,000 - £54,000

16 Causeway Green Road, Oldbury
3 Bedroom Mid Terraced Property
Guide: £75,000 - £80,000

28 Pennyhill Lane, West Bromwich
3 Bedroom Semi Detached Property
Guide: £50,000 plus

2 Trafalgar Court, Tividale
Residential Investment Property
Gross Income: £4,680 pa
Guide: £25,000 - £30,000

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**Please note charges may apply in addition to the purchase price on some lots *For a definition of Guide Price & Reserve price please refer to our catalogue or website*

Exquisite Victorian semi in a sought after location

AN exquisite Victorian semi-detached property in Histons Hill, Codsall lies in one of the village's most sought after locations. It is for sale through Bartlams at £499,950.

Having an overall plot of around a quarter of an acre it has spacious three-storey accommodation of period ambience, combining many original features with a comfortably appointed modern specification. It has two principal reception rooms, dining room plus an additional small garden room.

There is a breakfast kitchen and five bedrooms. Contact 01902 845215 or visit www.bartlams.co.uk

Bartrams

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WHITTINGTON CLOSE, B71 3EX

- A Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating & Double Glazed
- Vacant Possession And Freehold
- EPC RATING C

99,000

WESTMORE WAY, WS10 0TR

- A Link Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Conservatory
- Double Glazed & Central Heating
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

£155,000

GRAFTON ROAD, B71 4EG

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating
- Double Glazed
- EPC RATING D
- Freehold

Offers in Excess of £139,999

HYDES ROAD, WS10 9SX

- A Three Storey Terraced Property
- Four Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Loft Conversion
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

£139,950

PERRY STREET, B66 1DJ

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Double Glazed & Central Heating
- Garage
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

£164,950

VICARAGE ROAD, B71 1AE

- A Mid Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating
- Downstairs W.C
- EPC RATING C, Freehold

£127,000

HOPKINS DRIVE, B71 3RR

- A Detached Bungalow
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating
- Majority Double Glazed
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

£221,950

DAWES AVENUE, B70 7LS

- An End Terraced Property
- Two Bedrooms
- Central Heating & Double Glazed
- Front & Rear Gardens
- EPC RATING C, Freehold

£109,950

ST. MICHAELS COURT, B70 8ET

- A Modern First Floor Apartment
- Two Bedrooms
- Central Heating
- Excellent Location For Town Centre
- EPC Rating C, Leasehold

£105,000

SHERIDAN STREET, B71 4EF

- A Mid Terrace Property
- Two/Three Bedroomed
- Two Reception Rooms
- Downstairs Shower Room
- EPC RATING F, Freehold

£99,950

WHITEGREAVE STREET, B70 9BB

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Double Glazing & Central Heating
- Off Road Parking & Rear Garden
- EPC RATING F

£114,950

EMILY STREET, B70 8LH

- A Mid Terrace Property
- Two Bedrooms
- Central heating & Double Glazed
- Rear Garden
- EPC RATING E, Freehold

£92,950

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BASSETT ROAD, WS10 0HH

- A Mid Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Majority Double Glazing
- Central Heating
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

£94,950

CARISBROOKE ROAD, WS10 OHZ

- A Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Large Conservatory
- Central Heating, Double Glazed
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

£109,950

ROBERTS ROAD, WS10 0LG

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Double Glazing & Central Heating
- Conservatory
- EPC RATING E, Freehold

£129,950

EBRINGTON ROAD LAND, B71 1AB

- Land Rear Of Ebrington Road
- Land For Sale
- Outline Consent For Four Bungalows
- Sought After Location
- Plans Available On Request

£150,000

ARLINGTON ROAD, B71 1AA

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Kitchen/Diner
- Two Reception Rooms
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

£174,950

CHURCHFIELDS WAY, B71 4DP

- Two Bedroom Apartment
- Open Plan Kitchen/ Lounge
- Lift Access
- Master Bedroom W/ En Suite
- Credit Checks Required

£650 PCM £750 DEPOSIT

WESTMINSTER ROAD, B71 2JW

- Three Bedrooms
- Semi Detached
- Central Heating, Double Glazed
- Credit Checks Required
- EPC RATING D

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What House? AWARDS 2014

24-11 Interior photo from another development. *Terms and conditions apply, available on request.
† Offer varies according to plot and on selected plots only, for move in by 19/12/14. Terms and conditions apply, ask for details.

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HARBORNE, Bantock Way

Rare opportunity to acquire a spacious 3 bed intermediate family home, within reasonable walking distance of Q.E. HOSPITAL, Having double glazing, part radiator heating and comprising :- Entrance vestibule, delightful through lounge, spacious dining kitchen, rear hall, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, separate w.c, and pleasant rear garden. MUST BE VIEWED. EPC D. BEARWOOD OFFICE

Offers around £169,950

OLDBURY, Castle Road West

A spacious 2 bedroomed bungalow set within this popular neighbourhood, requiring modernisation but offering potential and comprising :- Porch, spacious lounge, inner hall, kitchen, rear vestibule/useful store, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom, off road parking and pleasant good sized rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC D. BEARWOOD OFFICE

Offers in the Region Of £154,950

SMETHWICK, Hugh Road

Well presented, spacious, considerably improved, 3 bed semi detached set within this popular neighbourhood, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and comprising :- Entrance hall, delightful lounge, sitting room (opening through to): re-fitted dining kitchen, downstairs shower/wet room, side passage, utility, 3 bedrooms, bathroom and pleasant rear garden. EPC D. BEARWOOD OFFICE.

Offers around £149,950

SMETHWICK, Cheshire Road

A deceptively spacious 3 bedroomed intermediate terraced property conveniently situated, having gas radiator heating, majority double glazing and comprising :-Entrance hall, lounge, sitting/dining room, kitchen, downstairs bathroom, 3 bedrooms, additional w.c (off landing), and rear garden. EPC D. BEARWOOD OFFICE

Offers around £114,950

TIPTON, Hurst Lane

Freehold, gas centrally heated, double glazed intermediate town house comprising; hall, cloakroom, store, kitchen, living/ dining room. First floor are 2 bedrooms, bathroom. To top floor; bedroom with shower room en suite. Garden. GARAGE. EPC: C. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £125,000

OLDBURY, Silverlands Avenue

Rare opportunity to acquire a spacious, delightfully presented 3 bedroomed taditional style semi detached property occupying a pleasant cul-de-sac position with views to the front over local park, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and comprising :- Porch, entrance hall, dining room, delightful lounge, re-fitted kitchen, useful side passage/ utility area (having downstairs w.c off), 3 bedrooms, bathroom, off road parking, garage and super, well maintained rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC E. BEARWOOD OFFICE

No upward chain

Offers in the Region Of £199,950

TIPTON, Wrens Avenue

Conscientiously maintained, Freehold, gas centrally heated, double glazed semi detached of character comprising: porch, reception hall, sitting room, dining room, kitchen, pantry. Three bedrooms, bathroom. Garage, garden. EPC: D.SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £141,950

TIPTON, Beaumont Close

Superb, gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed semi detached comprising' entrance hallway, lounge, dining kitchen (with patio doors), store, THREEE BEDROOMS, bathroom. GATED PARKING, delightful secluded garden. EPC: D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £114,950

SMETHWICK, Milton Court, Sandon Road

A spacious double bedroomed flat, pleasantly situated within this RETIREMENT COMPLEX, most convenient for Bearwood Town Centre, approached via a communal entrance and comprising :- Entrance hall, spacious lounge, kitchen, double bedroom, shower room, communal garden, communal parking area, NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC C. BEARWOOD OFFICE

No upward chain

Offers around £59,950

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SKITTS
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EPC: E

Tipton
Watery Lane
- Three bed detached house
- Quiet cul-de-sac location
- Central heating & double glazing
- Landscaped gardens
- Fitted breakfast kitchen

£625pcm

EPC: C

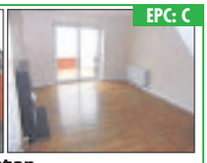
Wednesbury
Yew Tree Lane
- Two bed semi
- Quiet cul-de-sac location
- Lounge/dining room
- Centrally heated & double glazed
- Fitted kitchen with appliances

£595pcm

EPC: D

West Bromwich
Walter Street
- Three bed mid terraced
- DG and GCH
- Fitted kitchen
- Downstairs bathroom
- Close to West Brom town centre and New Square shopping complex

£525pcm



EPC: C

Tipton
Factory Road
- Two bed end terraced
- Conservatory
- Fully fitted kitchen
- ORP
- Bathroom with bath and electric shower
- Rear garden

£495pcm

EPC: D

Tipton
Sanders Crescent
- Two bed ground floor
- Fitted kitchen
- Family bathroom
- Off road parking
- Double glazing
- Available immediately

£475pcm

EPC: D

Tipton
Wynn Griffith Drive
- One bedroom semi
- Ideal for young families or working professionals
- GCH and DG
- Fully fitted breakfast kitchen
- Bathroom with shower

£395pcm

EPC: C

Tipton
Ferguson Drive
- One bed apartment
- Unfurnished
- Fully fitted kitchen
- Allocated parking
- Bathroom with bath/ shower facilities
- Popular development
- Available immediately

£375pcm

REDUCED

EPC: C

Coseley
Horace Street
- Two bed mid terraced home
- CH & DG
- ORP
- Bathroom with bath/ shower
- Private gardens
- Available immediately

£450pcm

EPC: D

Bilston
Weston Drive
- Two bed ground floor apartment
- Convenient to Bilston town centre
- Fitted kitchen with appliances
- Double glazing throughout

£450pcm

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NEW

Abbey Road, Bearwood
- A Most Attractive Mid Terrace Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Period Features
- Close To Warley Woods
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £154,950

NEW

Lincoln Road, Smethwick
- Most Attractive End Terrace
- Tasteful Lounge
- Three Bedrooms
- Superb Modern Kitchen
- Stunning Rear Garden
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £134,950

NEW

Quinton Road West, Quinton
- Traditional Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms And Study
- Two reception Rooms
- Beautifully Kept Garden
- Ample Off Road Parking And Garage
- EP Rating E

Offeres in the region of £249,950

"It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas"

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Mon 29th December 9.00-5.30
Tue 30th December 9.00-5.30
Wed 31st December 9.00-4.00
Closed 1st January
Fri 2nd January 9.00-5.30

The Hagley Road team would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year!

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NEW PRICE

Pargeter Road, Bearwood
- Traditional Mid Terrace
- Three Beds & En Suite to Master
- Two Reception Rooms
- Useful Utility With WC
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £164,950

NEW PRICE

Pitcairn Road, Smethwick
- Traditional Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Ground Floor WC
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £174,950

NEW PRICE

Perry Hill Road, Oldbury
- Beautifully Presented Semi
- Five Bedrooms
- En Suite to Master Bedroom
- Conservatory
- Delightful Rear Garden
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £249,950

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NEW

77 GALTON ROAD, BEARWOOD

•Close to Lightwoods Park and Warley Woods
|Gas centrally heated & PVC double glazed
•Three bedrooms and bathroom to first floor
•Hall, through lounge/dining room and kitchen
•An ideal family home
•ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £175,000

Viewings Bearwood Office

NEW

27 ELM CROFT, OLDBURY

|Extended semi-detached property
•Quiet cul-de-sac
|Gas centrally heated
|Virtually PVC double glazed throughout
|Three bedrooms and bathroom
•Hall, study, dining room and lounge
•L shaped kitchen/breakfast room
|Additional study area/potential utility room
•Off-street parking for two cars
•INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED

OFFERS BASED ON £189,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

PUBLIC AUCTION

AT

THIMBLEMILL RECREATION & ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE

THIMBLEMILL ROAD, SMETHWICK. B67 6NR

ON

MONDAY 8th DECEMBER 2014 @ 6.30PM

Lot 1:
58 TALBOT ROAD, BEARWOOD. B66 4DT
Freehold double glazed and centrally heated 2 bedroomed terrace, in need of cosmetic improvement ..... **£ 85 - 90,000**

Lot 2:
10 KINGSLEIGH ROAD, HANDSWORTH. B20 3UG
Freehold centrally heated and double glazed end town house needing modernisation .... **£ 100-120,000**

Lot 3:
78 ASHTREE ROAD, TIVIDALE. B69 2HH
Freehold centrally heated and double glazed 3 bedroomed semi-detached, needing further improvement ..... **£ circa 90,000**

Lot 4:
24 WESTBOURNE ROAD, HANDSWORTH. B21 8AT
Freehold end terraced property with 2 bedrooms, being in need of improvement..... **£ 65 - 70,000**

Lot 5:
160 GREAT ARTHUR STREET, SMETHWICK. B66 1DG
Freehold centrally heated 3 bedroomed mid-terrace, in need of refurbishment ..... **£ 60 - 70,000**

Lot 6:
1 MOUNT PLEASANT, LANGLEY CRESCENT, OLDBURY. B68 8RE
Freehold centrally heated and double glazed 2 bedroomed mid-terrace, in need of refurbishment ..... **£ 60 – 70,000**

Lot 7:
65 ETHEL STREET, BEARWOOD. B67 5AJ
Freehold 2 bedroomed terrace, needing further improvement ..... **£ 75 - 80,000**

REDUCED

6 JOHNSONS GROVE, OLDBURY

•Quiet cul-de-sac location
|Link detached bungalow
•Virtually PVC double glazed throughout
•Gas centrally heated
|Off-street parking
•Fully tiled shower room & separate cloakroom
•Lounge, refitted kitchen & conservatory
•Two/three bedrooms
•INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED
•ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £199,950

Viewings Bearwood Office

NEW

17 MARRIOT ROAD, SMETHWICK

•Gas centrally heated & PVC double glazed
•Two bedrooms and bathroom to first floor
•Lounge and open plan kitchen/breakfast room
•Conservatory
•Gardens to front and rear
•Ideal FTBs

OFFERS BASED ON £97,000

Viewing Bearwood Office

NEW

10 WESTFIELD ROAD, SMETHWICK

•Freehold mid-terraced property.
•Located close to Smethwick High Street and providing easy access to Birmingham City Centre.
•Gas centrally heated and fully PVC double glazed.
•Three bedrooms
•Two reception rooms, kitchen, bathroom and garden.
•Ideally suited for first time buyers.
•ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £112,000

Viewing Bearwood Office

27 LIGHTWOODS HILL, BEARWOOD

•Prime location overlooking Lightwoods Park
•Gas centrally heated
•PVC double glazed
•Bedroom with en-suite shower room
•Three further bedrooms and family bathroom
•Spacious through lounge/dining room
•Extended kitchen/breakfast room
•Downstairs cloakroom
•VIEWING ESSENTIAL
•ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £206,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

NEW

142 SELSEY ROAD, EDGBASTON

•Gas centrally heated
•PVC double glazed
•Two bedrooms & bathroom to first floor
•Two reception rooms, kitchen & side verandah
•Downstairs shower room/W.C.
•Recently refurbished
•ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON 124,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

NEW

28 LOXLEY ROAD, BEARWOOD

•Deceptively spacious mid-terraced property
•Virtually double glazed throughout
•Gas centrally heated
•Three bedrooms and bathroom
•Dining room and lounge
•Kitchen and laundry
•Downstairs cloakroom
•Neatly laid out garden to the rear
•ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £174,950

Viewings Bearwood Office

NEW

76 GREENHILL ROAD, HANDSWORTH

•Gas centrally heated & PVC double glazed
•Two double bedrooms and bathroom
•Two reception rooms and kitchen
•Easy access to Birmingham city centre
•ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £94,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

27 RUTLAND ROAD, BEARWOOD

•Beautifully presented & recently refurbished
•Gas centrally heated & PVC double glazed
•Two double bedrooms
•Recently refitted bathroom
•Two reception rooms
•Superbly presented refitted kitchen
•INTERNAL INSPECTION A MUST
•ENERGY RATING : G

OFFERS BASED ON £124,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

60 LINDEN ROAD, BEARWOOD

|Mid-terraced property
|Easy access to Birmingham city centre
|Gas central heating and part PVC double glazing
|Three bedrooms
|Two reception rooms
|Breakfast room and kitchen
|In need of refurbishment
•ENERGY RATING : F

OFFERS BASED ON £107,500

Viewings Bearwood Office

52 ABBEY ROAD, BEARWOOD

•PVC double glazed
•Gas centrally heated
•Two double bedrooms & refitted bathroom
•Through lounge/dining room
•Downstairs cloakroom
•Refitted kitchen
•Recently refurbished
•VIEWING TO BE APPRECIATED
•ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £114,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

99 GRAFTON ROAD, OLDBURY

•Well presented freehold semi-detached
•Close to the main Wolverhampton Road
•Gas centrally heated
•PVC double glazed
•Three bedrooms
•Fully tiled bathroom
•Lounge, dining room and kitchen
•Neatly laid out garden to the rear
•Off-street parking for two cars
•INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED

OFFERS BASED ON £149,950

Viewings Bearwood Office

50 SALOP ROAD, OLDBURY

•Quiet cul-de-sac location
•Virtually PVC double glazed throughout
•Gas centrally heated
•Three bedrooms and bathroom
•Lounge and kitchen/breakfast room
•Off-street parking for two/three cars
•IN NEED OF IMPROVEMENT
•ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £97,500

Viewings Bearwood Office

7 CLARENCE COURT, OLDBURY

•Quiet cul-de-sac location
•Gas centrally heated and double glazed
•Three bedrooms and bathroom
•Downstairs cloakroom
•Lounge, kitchen/dining room & conservatory
•Off-street parking for two/three cars
•An ideal family home
•ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £144,950

Viewings Bearwood Office

34 WILSON ROAD, OLDBURY

•Prime location close to Warley Woods
•Freehold semi-detached property
•Virtually PVC double glazed throughout
•Gas centrally heated
•Three bedrooms & fully tiled bathroom
•Lounge, conservatory, kitchen & small utility
•Off-street parking for two cars
•INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED
•ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £179,950

Viewings Bearwood Office

31 VALLEY ROAD, SMETHWICK

•Situated in a quiet cul-de-sac in Smethwick (off the main Valley Road)
|End town house, centrally heated and PVC double glazed throughout.
•Gardens to the front and rear.
•Three bedrooms and bathroom to the first floor.
•Hall, lounge, kitchen/breakfast room, downstairs cloakroom.
•Providing ideal opportunity for first time buyers of families.
•In close proximity to both Bearwood and Smethwick town centres.
•ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £129,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

9 CASTLE CROFT, OLDBURY

•Link detached property in quiet cul-de-sac
•Gas centrally heated
|Virtually PVC double glazed throughout
•Four bedrooms and bathroom
•Hall, spacious lounge and dining room
•Kitchen, utility and conservatory
•Downstairs W.C.
•Side garage
•Neatly laid out garden
|Off-street parking for two/three cars
•INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE

OFFERS BASED ON £295,000

Viewing Bearwood Office

32 BRANDHALL COURT, OLDBURY

•Well presented ground floor flat
•PVC double glazed and well heated
•Gated development
•Superb through lounge/dining room
•Two bedrooms
•Refitted kitchen and bathroom
•Garage and communal gardens
•FULL INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED
•ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £84,950

Viewing: Bearwood Office

185 PARK ROAD, BEARWOOD

•Superbly presented semi-detached property
•Easy reach Warley Woods and Lightwoods Park
•Easy access to Birmingham city centre
•Double glazed and gas centrally heated
•Three bedrooms and fully tiled bathroom
•Inter-communicating lounge/dining room
•Kitchen and utility
•Downstairs cloakroom
•Beautifully presented garden to the rear
•INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED

OFFERS BASED ON £229,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

ROTTON PARK ROAD, EDGBASTON

• Spacious family accommodation
• Three bedrooms
• Two reception rooms
• Kitchen/breakfast room
• Internal inspection to be appreciated
• ENERGY RATING : E

Offers Based On £169,950

Viewing : Bearwood Office

www.derekspiresandco.com

Super luxury car returns

It may have disappeared with a whimper but Mercedes has announced it's reintroducing its super-luxury Maybach nameplate next year.

In the face of modest sales and stiff competition from the likes of Bentley and Rolls-Royce, Mercedes' first attempt at reintroducing the premium historic marque wasn't the success the German firm had hoped for. This time around, and helped by a newer, more accomplished base model S-Class platform to work with, Mercedes is promising levels of luxury and performance not seen from the brand for some time.

Now positioned as a sub-brand and no longer a standalone marque, industry insiders are expecting Mercedes to roll out extra long wheelbase versions of the S-Class reminiscent of the firm's iconic Pullman variants from the past.

There's no word yet on price, but with the regular range-topping S-Class easily breaking the £100,000 barrier, don't expect too much change from twice that once you've factored in the all-important cost options.

More details – and the all-important car – are expected to be revealed later this year ahead of a 2015 launch.

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Available at participating retailers only. Conditional Sale. Offers available on orders or registrations made by 31st December 2014. Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors. Picture for illustration purposes only.

Meriva has appeal for family car purchasers

By Anthony Martyn

It used to be so difficult. You wanted a vehicle with decent economy that could do the family duties, yet had something about it when you pressed the throttle pedal. Trying to square those requirements for a reasonable budget could tie even the most knowledgeable car enthusiast in knots.

These days things are a whole lot easier. If you want to know how easy, just go to a Vauxhall dealer and cajole them into lending you a Meriva 1.6 CDTi diesel. It's a car that's been steadily improved over the course of its lifetime, but replacing the old 1.7-litre diesel lump with a smaller but more modern, powerful and economical engine has given this particular Meriva real appeal for family buyers.

Developing a healthy 136PS, this Euro6-compliant motor serves up a supersized 320Nm of torque at just 2,000rpm, which lends it a hugely muscular feel. In fact this Meriva will get to 62mph in just 9.9 seconds and Vauxhall has worked at improving the quality of the six-speed manual gearshift so that changes are slicker and gear engagement more reassuring.

Refinement at speed is a notable strong point, with the engine only really becoming vocal at around 4,000rpm, at which point you will have probably upshifted anyway.

This facelifted second generation Meriva gets a revised grille, but the chrome accents that frame the front fog lamps aren't so obvious. The headlights now feature an 'eagle-eye' graphic. For the first time, LED daytime running lights and LED tail lights are available as an option. If you're in the mood to tick options boxes, you can also pay extra for some 18-inch alloy wheels.

The Meriva still differentiates itself from its many rivals via its rear-hinged back doors. The advantage of this design comes when entering and exiting the vehicle as the doors open to an angle of almost 90 degrees and you can step straight out unhindered.

It also helps parents when they're strapping the kids in or fitting child car seats because there's no door in the way to manoeuvre around.

Plusher

The interior itself is based around the FlexSpace seating system which allows the rear seats to fold down and slide individually.

Splitting the cabin on the plusher models is the FlexRail, a pair of metal runners between the front seats that various modular storage bins and arm-rests can be clipped to and slid along.

It's all very clever but those who have a thing for plastics quality might feel that some parts of the Meriva's cabin – especially rearwards from the front seats – show clear signs of cost-cutting.

Still, that's the case with many of its rivals.

Whereas you used to have legions of trim level variations to wade through, with this 1.6-litre CDTi, things are more straightforward. You either pay just over £19,000 and buy the S trim or you pay just over £21,000 and bag yourself the SE specification.

The S isn't badly finished with an ESP-plus electronic stability control system, twin front airbags, an electric parking brake, a CD/MP3 CD player/stereo radio with USB and AUX-in socket, electric front windows, electrically adjustable and heated door mirrors, remote central deadlocking and front side airbags.

Go for the up-spec SE version and you'll find a panoramic glass sunroof, 17-inch alloy wheels, folding seatback trays and under-seat drawers, a trip computer, cruise control, curtain airbags, leather trim for the steering wheel and gear shifter and heating for both the seats and the wheel.

Calculations

There are many MPV or SUV owners who have looked at the cost of petrol and diesel derivatives of the same car, done the calculations and decided that based on the amount of miles they do, they'd never justify the additional expense of the diesel variant.

So they buy the petrol model and soon come to realise that the torque deficit you get with entry-level petrol engines requires you to flog them really hard to make progress. They look at their economy figures and then realise the error of their ways. They should have bought a car like this Meriva 1.6 CDTi.

Emissions are also kept well in check at just 116g/km which, like the economy figure, is even better than the lowly 1.3-litre CDTi diesel engine you can also have fitted in your Meriva.

Residual values ought to be strong as well, with many buyers being attracted to the Meriva range's best and most economical powerplant.

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7 Jobs

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METALWORKER/FABRICATOR- Time served individual with all round metal shop exp. Apply Works Manager, A Edmonds & Co Ltd, Constitution Hill Bham B19 3JY.

PRICE WORK PAINTERS WANTED For commercial works Call PSM Decorators Ltd Office : 0121 748 5499/07951 893985 IMMEDIATE START.

employment wanted

EXPERIENCED BRICKLAYER Seeks employment, private and commercial work. Own tools and transport. 07932 844 295.

engineering

TOOLMAKER, experienced, busy contract press toolroom, Glenbeth Tool, West Brom, 0121 553 0715.

finance & accounting

EXPERIENCED PURCHASE Ledger Clerk required for Manufacturing company in Winson Green. Conversant with Sage Line 50, Excel and Outlook. Previous experience in an accounts payable department is preferred. Tel 0121 507 8400

FULL TIME/PART TIME BOOK-KEEPER / OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR Required in Wolverhampton area. Experience of Sage Line 50 Accounts, Microsoft Excel and Word essential. You must be reliable, smart, able to communicate at all levels and be able to use own initiative. A good telephone manner is also required. Apply in own handwriting with C.V. to Mr M Atkinson, Wright & Co Partnership Limited, The Squires, 5 Walsall Street, Wednesbury WS10 9BZ

PAYROLL CLERK required to work in practice on a variety of payroll both monthly and weekly Previous payroll experience essential and a knowledge of sage payroll package advantageous Apply with CV and salary expectations. Apply with CV to info@shabirnawab.co.uk

motor trade

MECHANIC/HGV FITTER required part time. Must have a full understanding of motor vehicles, be able to prep for MOT's, carry out 6 weekly checks & work with 7.5 ton-26 ton lorries. Call Steve Arnold at AMP Scaffolding on 0121 580 0389

full time - general

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8 Motoring

cars over £1500

BMW 316 COMPACT, 2004, 65,000 miles, met grey, m trim, fsh, air con, MoT Aug 2015, very good condition. Aldridge. £2,200. 07958 741979.

CHEVROLET TACUMA 07 Reg., full MoT, recently serviced, approx 27,000 miles, blue, very good condition, £1,700.ono. 0121 294 5030.

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Petrol, 04, 5-drs, blue, ABS, air bag, electric mirrors and windows, air con, FSH, alarm, New MoT, metallic paint, central locking, PAS, Alloys, CD, one owner, Superb.

£1,850.

Telephone 07724 629285.

FORD KA 1.3 Style, 58 reg, 2 lady owners, FSH, PAS, E/W, C/L, £1,895. 07961 589264 (T).

MERCEDES SLK 200 CONVERTIBLE, 2 seater. 2000, blue, FSH, MoT, low mileage. Beautiful car. £3,495 ono. 07847 456061.

RENAULT CLIO DYNAMIQUE, 2007, 86,175 miles, slate blue, air bag, fsh, alarm, MoT, new tyres, £2,550. 01952 820187.

cars under £1500

FIAT PUNTO Sporting, 1.2, 3Dr, 2002, silver, 57k, service history, 2 former keepers, 12 months MoT, as new, £995. 07984 141652.

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FORD PUMA 1.7 2001, black, long MoT, leather, low mileage, bargain £550. 01922 449436 / 07855 721501.

HONDA ACCORD 2.0 Vtech, 1990, full MoT, all electric, very good condition throughout £995. 07850 474193.

HYUNDAI SANTA FE, 2004, V6 CDX, 90,000 miles, silver, long MoT, auto, leather interior, £1,200. 07846 181021.

RENAULT LAGUNA 1.9 DCi Expression Sat Nav, Sep 06, MoT Sept 15, 92k, very clean. £1,500. 07522 475039 / 01922 865235.

RENAULT LAGUNA 2007, 60,000 miles, 2 owners, MoT October 2015, black, Good condition.£1,495.00 ono. 07878 844094

ROVER 25 1348cc, 2000 reg, tested July. Good condition excellent runner. £395. 07980 003317.

SUZUKI ALTO 1.1 GL, 2005 55reg, 5dr, £30 Road tax, 26k miles, MOT to 07/15, **£1495 07971 226968**

VAUXHALL AGILA 1.2 5dr, X reg, 2001, red, 58K, fsh, 1 former keeper, 12 mnths MoT, excellent condition only £795 07963 464780.

classic cars

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1963, 87,919 miles, red, alarm. More info call or contact: DeclannnnBirch@outlook.com

£8,800.

0161 8189384.

commercial vehicles

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9 Local Information

public & legal notices

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or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk
(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regeneration and Economy
Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010

I hereby give notice that Sandwell Council has received the following applications under the planning acts which it is required to give public notice for the reason given at the beginning of each group of applications.

The Council are of the opinion that the proposal may affect the setting of a listed building.

DC/14/57558	Old Hill Masjid & Community Centre	227 Halesowen Road Cradley Heath B64 6JE	Proposed refurbishment, ground and first floor extensions and change of use to create new prayer hall, community and teaching facility, with associated parking and access (revised application – DC/13/56101).
This is a major application.			
DC/14/57645	Arrow Environmental Services Limited	Arrow Environmental Services Limited Exchange Works Kelvin Way West Bromwich B70 7JW	Proposed replacement storage building and relocation, overhaul and upgrade of existing tanks and installation of 2 No. new tanks.
This is a major application.			
DC/14/57693	Mr Ben Sandford	Site Of Windmill Shopping Centre Windmill Precinct Smethwick B66 3QX	Variation of condition 1 of planning permission DC/12/55426 for the proposed development of 55 new build residential units.
This is a major application.			
DC/14/57672	Stoford Living Limited	The Boat Gauging House And Adjoining Land Factory Road Tipton DY4 9AU	Proposed variation of conditions 3 and 4 of planning approval (DC/11/53893) which reads: "The development authorised by this permission shall not be commenced until a scheme of works to strengthen the Tipton Cemetery/Hagley Pipeline adjacent to the development has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority" and "The approved method of works for strengthening the Tipton Cemetery/Hagley Pipeline adjacent to the development shall be fully implemented before the development is brought into use". It is proposed that the strengthening works to the high pressure pipeline only apply to the conversion of the Boat Gauging House. Condition 4 would need to be varied to reflect the above.

Members of the public may inspect copies of these applications at Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3DE (between 8.00a.m. and 5.30p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9.00a.m. and 5.30p.m. Wednesday and 8.00a.m. to 5p.m. Friday) or via the Council's Public Access website (www.sandwell.gov.uk).

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications can do so via the website, or should write to the Council at the above address within 21 days (and 21 days for Listed Building or Conservation Area consent) of the date of this advertisement quoting the application reference number.

Mr Nick Bubalo, Area Director – Regeneration and Economy

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Church Lane, West Bromwich) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2014, intends to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding along Church Lane, West Bromwich between Old Meeting Street and Brett Street. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 12/12/14 effective from 08/12/14. Traffic will be diverted via Church Lane, Wilford Road, All Saints Way, The Expressway, Old Meeting Street and vice-versa. Purpose – water connections to a new housing development.

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Peters Street, West Bromwich) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2014, intends to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding along Peters Street, West Bromwich. The maximum duration is 18 months, the work is expected to take the full 18 months to complete, effective from 05/01/15. Traffic will be diverted via New Street, Norbury Road and vice-versa. Purpose – works associated with a new housing development by Lovells.

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Richmond Road, Smethwick) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2014, intends to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding along Richmond Road, Smethwick. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 22/12/14, effective from 11/12/14. Traffic will be diverted via Bearwood Road, Linden Road, Merrivale Road and vice-versa. Purpose – work to a mobile phone mast by Vodafone.

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Langley Green Level Crossing, Crosswells Road, Oldbury) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2014, intends to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding along Crosswells Road, Oldbury between Western Road and Thompson Road. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 28/12/14 (09.00hrs) effective from 27/12/14 (23.00hrs). Traffic will be diverted via Western Road, Tat Bank Road, Vicarage Road and vice-versa. Purpose – safety works to Langley Green Level Crossing by Network Rail.

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Red Lion Close, Rowley Regis) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2014, intends to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding along Red Lion Close, Rowley Regis between Regent Road and Harlech Close. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 07/12/14, effective from 10/11/14. Traffic will be diverted via Red Lion Close, Regent Road and vice-versa. Purpose – drainage works and works to construct a new bellmouth by Morgan Construction for Kier Homes.

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Marmion Way, West Bromwich) (Temporary Road Closure 2) Order 2014, has made an Order to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding along Marmion Way, West Bromwich between St Vincent's Crescent and Dial Lane. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 29/11/14, effective from that same day. Alternative route via St Vincent's Crescent, Dial Lane and vice-versa. Purpose – works to install a new BT duct by Callan Connect.

LICENSING ACT 2003

I, Balwinder Singh of Costcutter 125 Hill Top West Bromwich B70 ORU

Herby give notice I have applied under S17 Licensing and in accordance with S12 Licensing Act 2003 for a Premises Licence for the above mentioned premises, namely

For the sale of alcohol for consumption off the premises, namely

MON _ SUN 07:00- 23:00

Any person wishing to make a representation regarding the application must do so in writing to SANDWELL M.B.C TRADING STANDARDS LICENSING TEAM UNIT 33 CONEYGREE ROAD TIPTON DY4 8XR not later than 17TH December 2014. (Licensing_Team@sandwell.gov.uk)

A copy of the application may be inspected during normal business hours.

It is an offence, liable on conviction to a fine up to level 5 on the standard scale, under section 158 of the licensing act 2003 to make a false statement in or in connection with this application.

PMB Licensing
AUTHORISED AGENTS
DATED 20TH Nov 2014

10 Personals

personal

BLACK COUNTY BORN & BRED
Male smoker, late 50's, car owner, hard working, medium height/build, W.L.T.M. his soul mate, sincere/honest lady, looks not important slim/medium build. For lots of love and cuddles. G.S.O.H. Done clubbing, time to settle down with. L.term partner. Pets welcome. Local area if possible.
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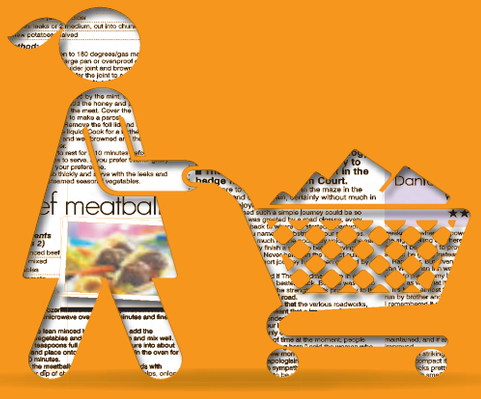

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Whiley setting her sights on Masters

Jordanne Whiley faces new challenge

HALESOWEN'S Jordanne Whiley completed her preparations for the coming week's NEC Wheelchair Tennis Masters by finishing runner-up in the women's singles on Sunday at the Nottingham Indoor, just 24 hours after lifting the women's doubles title with fellow Brit Lucy Shuker.

World No.6 Whiley, the 2010 Nottingham Indoor champion, was beaten 6-0, 6-4 by Dutch world No.2 Jiske Griffioen in the singles final, but is buoyed by her second set comeback heading into the year-end singles championship for the world's leading players, which begins on Wednesday in Queen

Tennis

Elizabeth Olympic Park, London.

"I did well in the second set and brought it back a little bit, but I couldn't find my rhythm," said Whiley, who will go to the Masters bidding to progress beyond the round-robin phase of the competition for the second successive year. She became the first Brit to reach the women's singles semi-finals at the prestigious event in 2013.

"It wasn't my day and Jiske was on fire. But I know I can beat her, I've beaten her before and I'm really excited to be heading back to the venue where I won my London 2012 doubles bronze medal for the Masters at the end of what's been a memorable season." I've been working really hard on my game at home and came here not wanting to put too much pressure on myself."

Whiley beat Frenchwoman Charlotte Famin in a final set tie-break in her opening match in Nottingham, which came less than just 24 hours after her red carpet appearance at the Sunday Times and Sky Sports Sportswoman of the Year Awards in London.

First goal was lethal for Albion, says boss

BAGGIES boss Alan Irvine believes Chelsea's controversial opening goal spoiled his team's chances of pulling off a shock defeat at Stamford Bridge.

Irvine's men went down 2-0 to the Premier League leaders and had Claudio Yacob sent off but Irvine was upset by the award of Chelsea's opener, with replays suggesting scorer Diego Costa was fractionally offside when Oscar delivered the cross.

"We could have been a little bit more on the front foot from the front but the game was really just settling down, I felt," said Irvine, who defended the performance of his players.

"Then obviously we lost the first goal and that rocked us. That made a difficult task even more difficult."

"What we have to do is look at that game and take the positives out of it.

"There aren't lots and lots of positives, obviously, but we can certainly be pleased that we played for so long with 10 men and didn't cave in. So mentally there are a lot of positives.

"Ben Foster was terrific.

"It's the most he's had to do this season by a long way," said Irvine.

No Doughty about it Wednesbury rule

Wednesbury RUFC 90 Uttoxeter RUFC 0

AFTER last week's humiliating defeat Wednesbury made an outstanding return entertaining Uttoxeter.

Right from the off, Wednesbury's pack had the upper hand pushing their opponent ever backwards and unleashing their back to do the damage. It only took the home side five minutes to get on the score sheet, Lee Allwood crashing through the Uttoxeter defence to go over for the try, no conversion.

Rugby

Within minutes Dale Doughty making his first appearance of the season finished off a superb forwards move to go over for a try, Dan Till converted,

Then it was the turn of captain John McGregor, within the space of three minutes he scored two outstanding tries, no conversions.

Just before half time Lee Allwood went over for his second try of the game converted by Till. Then it was the turn of Mitch Grealey to finish off the half with his first try, Till converted.

The second started with a bang within three minutes McGregor went over for his third try of the game, then two minutes latter Grealey going over for his second both tries converted by Dan Till.

At this point it was all one way traffic, Grealey getting his third try, with Till leaving the field injured Tom Huggins took over the kicking duties adding the conversion.

Dale Doughty was having an outstanding game using his bulk and power to crash through the visitors defence allowing Wednesbury's players to take advantage and run riot over their opponents, Lee Allwood going over for his third try of the game, Huggins added the conversion.

Then it was the turn of the other Allwood brother Jordan to get his name on the score sheet going over in the corner for the try, Huggins again added the conversion.

In the last 10 minutes Wednesbury ran in another three tries through Dan Blake, Ben Baker and Grealey adding his fourth, Huggins rounded off a superb display converting all three.

This finished off a superb day for Wednesbury man of the match went to Dale Doughty for his outstanding game.

Wednesbury 2nds travelled to play St Leonards 2nds eventually winning a very tight game 22-17 .Wednesbury's points coming from tries by Brett Hooper 2, Dominic Devlin, Simon Wallace getting two conversions and a penalty.

On December 6 Wednesbury are at home to Willenhall, kick off 215pm.

Mitch Grealey scoring his third try during the one-sided game which saw Wednesbury shut out Uttoxeter

Irvine is to quiz player on tweet

ALBION boss Alan Irvine insists Youssouf Mulumbu will be back after the out-of-form midfielder was dropped from the Baggies squad for Saturday's defeat at Chelsea.

Irvine is planning to speak to Mulumbu over a cryptic pre-match tweet which appeared to poke fun at the decision to leave him out of the 18-man squad.

But the Hawthorns head coach, who also defended the decision to leave Silvestre Varela and Sebastian Blanco off the bench, believes Mulumbu will recapture his missing form.

"I thought he started the season really well," said Irvine.

"He was absolutely terrific and then unfortunately he got a hamstring injury while away on international duty and that's knocked him back a bit.

"I've got every faith that Youssouf will come again. He hasn't played so well since he came back from the injury but at the beginning of the season he was one of the first names on the teamsheet."

Mulumbu raised eyebrows by tweeting "In the stand looooo....."

And Irvine is planning to ask him about his reaction.

Certainly not Nirvana for Gornal

Thurnby Nirvana 4
Gornal 1

GORNAL'S hopes of a good FA Vase run vanished as they lost 4-1 to inform United Counties side Thurnby Nirvana.

Despite a promising start, Athletic found themselves a goal down on eight minutes when Eddy Samba beat keeper Rich Kennedy at the second attempt.

Gornal's Tim Piggott spurned a great chance to equalise before Thurnby doubled their lead on 31 minutes through Ashley Day.

The hosts made the game safe on 65 minutes through Reece Moore . Matt Melbourne then celebrated Thurnby's fourth before Geoff Hill's consolation.

DK women are out of the running

DUDLEY Kingswinford Running Club ran at the Midlands Counties Cross Country Open Meeting at Wolverhampton & Bilston's Aldersley Stadium.

In the women's event over a five mile course, Sally McConville took 55th place with 48.03, Lisa Newell was 61st in 49.20 and Meg Dowen finished in 51.44 for 64th position.

Unfortunately with four runners needed to score they were unable to record a team position as other members dropped out due to injury. In the team event Tipton Harriers won Wolverhampton & Bilston took silver and Northbrook AC bronze. In the men's seven mile event Ben Foster was 13th in 42.04.

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Wednesbury wipe out opponents
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Tai will sit out season next year

TAI WOFFINDEN insists Wolverhampton are still 'my club' after revealing he will sit out British speedway in 2015.

The 2013 world champion says something had to give with his hectic schedule and he believes missing the Elite League will be beneficial to his hopes of regaining the crown.

He said: "Wolverhampton are my club and I know I let them down last season, but it was tough for me.

"I did everything I could to be a good world champion and took on every commitment I possibly could. It was such a hard year for me and I was physically and mentally exhausted.

"My health is my main concern. I have to manage my schedule better and stay healthy and this is the way I am going for now. But it doesn't mean the end of my Wolverhampton career, far from it."

Woffinden says the decision won't be a major surprise to many.

"I want to assure everyone it wasn't a decision taken lightly," he said. "I'm extremely proud to represent Great Britain in the Grand Prix series and the World Cup. "But I have spoken to a lot of different people around me ...and I simply cannot afford a repeat of 2014."

Bent on loan to Brighton

DARREN BENT looks set to sign on loan for Brighton & Hove Albion in a move which should signal the end of his Villa career.

Bent is expected to join Sami Hyypia's Championship squad on an initial 28-day loan with an option to extend the deal. The £24m record signing is out of contract at Villa at the end of this campaign.

The 30-year-old came on as a substitute in the 1-1 draw with Southampton on Monday but will view the move as an opportunity to kick-start his career.

Signed by Gérard Houllier for a record fee from Sunderland in January 2011, Bent proved crucial as Villa avoided relegation from the Premier League that season.

He scored nine league goals under Alex McLeish but the arrival of Lambert saw him sidelined, joining Fulham on loan last season.

Olsson will be out due to Achilles surgery

Football

ALBION defender Jonas Olsson is set for surgery on an Achilles tendon injury which has dogged him for some time and he now faces being out of action for around a month.

The Sweden international has been to see a specialist in Amsterdam and is now preparing for an operation which will hopefully correct a problem on the left Achilles which has hampered the player for several seasons.

The 31-year-old expects to be sidelined until early 2015 – but he admits he might be forced to consider his Hawthorns future if he fails to get back to full fitness and win back his first-team place with the Baggies on his return.

Olsson said: "I have been struggling with this on and off for some time and I've come to the point where it feels like surgery would help it.

"The recovery time is short so I hope to be back 100 per cent some time after the New Year."

Dutch surgeon Professor Niek van Dijk will perform the minor procedure on Friday in Oporto. Olsson lost his starting place after a poor start to the season and has not even been a presence on the bench for the more recent games.

QPR boss Harry Redknapp, a long-term admirer, has been keeping tabs on Olsson and considering a possible January bid, but Albion would be reluctant to sell to a potential survival rival.

"I have been a regular since I left BOIS (in Sweden) in 2005, so it is an unusual situation.

"And of course it is frustrating, it hurts," said Olsson in an interview in his native Sweden. Competition is tough. Joleon Lescott is a world-class defender and plays because he's doing well.

"I accept the manager's decision," added Olsson.

"If the situation is the same in a month I might think differently."

Meanwhile, full-back Sebastien Pocognoli has returned to training ahead of Saturday's Hawthorns meeting with Arsenal.

The Belgium international missed the 2-0 defeat away to Chelsea with a hamstring injury.

ALBION TAKING FLAK FOR DEFEAT

Chelsea 2 Albion 0

ALBION left Stamford Bridge with fresh storm clouds gathering.

Because the nature of the defeat to Jose Mourinho's rampant Chelsea side triggered alarm bells which, just a few weeks ago, Alan Irvine and his players seemed to have silenced. Not, it seems, in the dressing room.

Football

All the post match messages were about focusing on the positives from a chastening afternoon in west London.

But certainly in the stands and within the conversations of Baggies fans, where the sense of concern was obvious over the manner in which they were overrun by a magnificent Chelsea side.

When assessing the performance of Irvine's side at the weekend, it is important to be clear about just how good the home side were.

Mesmerising

The football from Mourinho's men, especially in a crushingly one-sided first half, was mesmerising.

Irvine and his players must, however, accept the flak that is flying their way for their display on Saturday.

There was rightly plenty of praise for their work-rate and commitment during the final 61 minutes with 10 men. They stuck admirably to their task.

But by the time Claudio Yacob was dismissed they were 2-0 down, and it could have been 4-0 or 5-0.

The display was passive – precisely what Irvine had warned beforehand it could not be – the defending was high-risk for Diego Costa's disputed opening goal and negligent for Eden Hazard's second.

And Yacob's challenge to earn the red card was reckless.

He may have won the ball, but the way the Argentina midfielder jumped into the challenge with Costa left referee Lee Mason no option.

For all Chelsea's obvious brilliance, their routine win was helped to a large degree by Baggies failings and, had Ben Foster not enjoyed an inspired afternoon in the visitors' goal, the scoreline could have been huge.

He had already saved superbly from John Terry before, on 11 minutes, he watched his defenders crazily try to catch Costa offside as the Spaniard latched onto Oscar's cross and controlled with his chest before volleying into the back of the net.

And he had denied Oscar wonderfully before the Baggies switched off totally at a corner and allowed Hazard the freedom to blast home for 2-0 on 25 minutes.

Baggies' Stephane Sessegnon up against Branislav Ivanovic of Chelsea during the clash at Stamford Bridge

Clark is keen for chance

CIARAN CLARK has vowed to take his Aston Villa chance alongside Jores Okore as boss Paul Lambert prepares to put his faith in the rookie partnership.

The defensive duo will start Villa's basement battle at Burnley on Saturday after playing together for the first time against Southampton.

Ron Vlaar and Philippe Senderos are sidelined for a few weeks with calf injuries while Nathan Baker is out until the New Year with a knee problem.

Denmark international Okore started his first game since September 2013 in Monday's 1-1 draw with the Saints after recovering from cruciate knee ligament damage.

And centre-back Clark, who has only made five appearances this season, insisted the pair can cement their places in the side.

"Sometimes when you get your chance you have to make it count. I think me and Jores did just that," said the 25-year-old.

"He's been out for 14 months and to come back in and do so well is brilliant.

"He's been brilliant in training."

Baggies show their six-appeal

ALBION'S Nabi brothers grabbed three goals between them as Albion Under-21s stormed to a 6-2 win at Rugby Town in the Birmingham Senior Cup.

Defender George Cleet, striker Alex Jones and midfielder Samir Nabi put the Baggies 3-0 up . Debutant Robbie Burns made it 3-1 then Sam Youngs struck.

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